

Form 5
Submission on publicly notified proposal for policy statement or plan

Clause 6 of First Schedule, Resource Management Act 1991

To Porirua City Council

Name of submitter: Whitireia Park Restoration Group

This is a submission on the following on the following proposed plan:

PORIRUA CITY COUNCIL CITY-WIDE DISTRICT PLAN REVIEW

The specific provisions of the proposal that my submission relates to are:

outlined below in my submission. We cannot gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission

Our submission is:

1. We submit that all of Whitireia Park must be protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

All areas of Whitireia Park are part of the coastal environment because they have elements and features that contribute to the natural character, landscape, visual qualities or amenity values and therefore any provisions for development are subject to section 6(a) of the Resource Management Act 1991 (the RMA).

2. We fully support all land in Whitireia Park continuing to be zoned Open Space.

Whitireia Park is a prominent headland on the southern side of the entrance to Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour. The Park includes all land owned by the Crown, some areas owned by Ngāti Toa, the golf course and the Radio New Zealand (RNZ) land which leases most of the land to DOC and areas within the boundary of the park owned by Porirua City Council. The Park is open to the public to wander at will. It is used by a wide range of people from Porirua and the wider Wellington Region for a variety of activities. It has highly significant cultural, recreation, biodiversity, landscape, educational and open space values.

3. We submit the bulk and location standards need to be amended so they are consistent with objective Open space Zone – 02 (OSZ-02).

The zoning of Open Space does not limit the number of buildings – any number is possible so long as each is less than 50m² and the combined coverage is no more than 5 percent. Under the permitted standard relating to site coverage and floor area, up to 520 buildings could be built on the Radio New Zealand land. This would be contrary to the objective OSZ-02 'a low level of development and built form with few structures to support passive and active community activities'.

4. We submit that all of Whitireia Park, except small footprints of modified landforms in the Golf Club and RNZ mast and building area should be included in the ONFL policy overlay.

My reasons for seeking inclusion are as follows:

- The area is open space widely used by the local community for recreation

- The area is widely recognised and valued by the community and is highly visible from the road, tracks and many other areas of the park
- The area is highly representative of natural landforms and demonstrates the typical gentle rolling slopes and watercourses of this district.
- The area has numerous springs and seeps which are the headwaters of Te Onepoto Stream which flows down the valley to Porirua harbour.
- The seeps and wetlands associated with this area have naturally regenerated since grazing ceased in 2010. It is rare to find seepages and their associated wetlands vegetated with NZ native species in the Wellington region.
- This area is an important educational resource for the community, including schools, to study the natural function and importance of protecting the headwaters of streams.
- The area is culturally and spiritually significant to many people in the Titahi Bay and wider Porirua community.

5. **We submit all of Onepoto stream should be included in SNA 134 and connects to SNA 138**

- Onepoto stream is site of significance to Ngāti Toa Rangātira
- Onepoto stream begin as spring-fed seeps in the headwaters of the stream and flows all the way to Onepoto estuary. Although a small area of the stream is piped in the golf course, the stream is still hydrologically linked all the way from the headwaters to the sea.
- This stream has good native fish values and is one of the least contaminated stream in the Porirua area.

6. **We support SNA 223 Whanake-Thornley Street**

However, there is no description in schedule 7 for it. A description should be added.

7. **We support SNA 136** but additional areas marked in yellow on the map should be added.

8. **An additional area should be added to SNA 134 Te Onepoto estuary** (see map in yellow)

The vegetation surrounding Onepoto Estuary comprises *Juncus kraussii* subsp. *australiensis*, *Apodasmia similis*, *Plagianthus divaricatus*, *Phormium tenax* and *Carex geminata*. This is an excellent example of the indigenous vegetation surrounding estuaries.



I wish to be heard in support of my submission.

- * If others make a similar submission, I will consider presenting a joint case with them at a hearing.
- * Delete if you would not consider presenting a joint case.

Dr Robert Stratford.....For Whitireia Park Restoration Group.

Signature of submitter
(or person authorised to sign
on behalf of submitter)

Date 18 November 2020

(A signature is not required if you make your submission by electronic means.)

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