

NOTICE OF MOTION: from Troy Churton

KEPA BUSH MANAGEMENT PLAN

In terms of clause of 3.11.1 of the Ōrākei Local Board's Standing Orders, please place the following Notice of Motion on the agenda for the Ōrākei Local Board's business meeting to be held on 20 April

Executive summary:

1. The Board could choose to progress a management plan for Kepa Bush if it deems that one is required.
2. Arguably management plans assist the longer term preservation of key inter-generational assets (think Orakei basin upkeep etc). There are pros and cons of having a management plan, like anything, however from a longer term investment and governance view I believe it makes it easier for us if there is one rather than not one.
3. Receiving my email advice, which copied officer Alyson Roach's advice dated 24 February also, I understand the Board discussed this informally during workshop time and indicated consensual support. Agreement to pursue a management plan is a matter of public interest that should be resolved in formal public meeting.
4. Kepa Bush is one of the largest tracts of fauna left in the city and a significant asset for Orakei. A management plan for it aligns with our Local Board Plan objectives.

Recommendations:

That the Ōrākei Local Board:

- a) agree to include a management plan for Kepa Bush or a precinct plan for Purewa incorporating Kepa Bush into its Local Board Agreement work programme for 2017/2018.
- b) allocate funding to progress the management plan's completion as a high priority.

Discussion:

5. Kepa Bush is owned by Auckland Council and is held in fee simple as a public reserve subject to Reserves Act 1977. There is no formal management plan for the reserve. The surrounding open areas are owned by the Crown and Ngati Whatua: Advice of Alyson Roach – Stakeholder Advisor.
6. For a number of years now part of the LDI volunteer budget has been spent on supporting volunteer animal pest control, trapping rodents and possums, in Kepa Bush (and a number of other local parks in Orakei). Expenditure includes

providing traps, bait, first aid kits, etc. as well as maintaining trap lines and training new volunteers. Most of the weed control in the reserve is done by Community Facilities. Some volunteers also remove weeds but generally there's no cost associated with this.

7. Kapa Bush now has very low numbers of pest plant species. Most weed species present are those appearing from the seedbank. Much of the reserve in Forest Protection however remaining areas of canopy management require more resources until the regeneration is more established.
8. Some exotic trees (e.g. privets) have been left in areas where canopy management is being undertaken and tree species are being gradually removed so not to create light gaps and encourage weed growth. June 2104 storm has enlarged some of these light gaps and caused others which require extra management. Boundaries are likely to continue to be a problem particularly with tradescantia spreading from neighbours.
9. Auckland Council controls privet within the constraints of available budgets through its ecological restoration activities. Removals are undertaken using a staged approach ensuring areas are not cleared too much in any one maintenance activity where areas may be left bare creating opportunity for re-infestation of other weed species or that might lead to erosion.
10. A Senior Maintenance Delivery Coordinator has advised that due to the many stairway steps in the reserve it is not an attractive area for cyclists. As well, there have been no received complaints of cyclists in the reserve although on recent attendances with John La Roche I observed vandalism to signage designed to restrict cyclists.
11. A pedestrian connection through Kapa Bush connecting to the Orakei Spine is proposed in the Orakei Local Board Greenways Plan. The track will mostly be along the existing track network with only a short section of new track.

Author and signatory:



Troy Churton
Ōrākei Local Board Member
29 March 2017