Date: Tuesday 17 April 2018  
Time: 2:00pm  
Meeting Room: Waitematā Local Board Office  
Venue: Ground Floor  
52 Swanson Street  
Auckland

Waitematā Local Board  
OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

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Life Education Trust Waitemata Local Board Presentation 17 April 2018

Lincoln Jefferson
General Manager
OUR PHILOSOPHIES

THREE PRINCIPLES

1. That you are SPECIAL and UNIQUE

2. That the human body is MAGNIFICENT

3. We need to SUPPORT & RESPECT each other, because of the delicate & complex nature of life
Life Education Trust

- A Health Literacy programme, enhancing the NZ Health & PE curriculum - 31 years young!
- Target Group Primary School aged children Y0-8
- 250,000 children NZ wide (30-45,000 per year)
- Cost $17.92 per child
- Schools charged between $5-$7 per child
- 7 Mobile Classrooms
- All educators need to be fully registered teachers
- Across 10 Local Boards
What areas do we cover?
Today children and adolescents face a lot of challenges...

**OBESITY**

"One in nine children (aged 2 to 14 years) are obese and a further 20% of children are overweight. 16% of Māori and 29% of Pacific children are obese."

The effects of being overweight for a child include low self-esteem, bullying, eating disorders, chronic ill-health and even suicide.

**SUBSTANCE USE**

"Approximately 1% of New Zealand high school students use substances at levels that are likely to cause them significant harm and may cause long-term problems. Students with very high substance use (including binge drinking) have more challenging family and school lives than others."

**MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**

"New Zealand has the worst teen suicide rate in the developed world...the number of adolescents reporting two or more psychological symptoms (feeling low, feeling irritable, feeling nervous, and having sleeping difficulties) is increasing."

"Six out of ten girls are so concerned with the way they look they participate in less in daily life - from going swimming and playing sports, to visiting the doctor, going to school or even offering their opinions."

**BULLYING**

"Rates of school bullying in New Zealand are among the worst worldwide. About one in three year 4 students report being bullied on a weekly or more frequent basis. 94% of New Zealand teachers believe that bullying occurs in their school and 68% believed it began very early in a child's life (between preschool and Year 4)."

"Nearly one in ten students have been afraid that someone would hurt or bother them in the past year."

Life Education teach...

**FOOD AND NUTRITION**

Children learn how food gives them energy, how it helps them grow and how their body digests it. They explore the variety of nutrient-rich foods needed every day, what a balanced diet looks like and how to read packaging. Lessons may include Science and Human Biology.

**HUMAN BIOLOGY**

Children learn about body systems and how they work to carry food, water and oxygen around their body. Children explore their brain and the nervous system as the control centre for their body. They learn that stress affects people in a variety of ways.

**SUBSTANCES**

We focus on the effects of alcohol and other drugs, both legal and illegal. Children learn how to identify the difference between helpful and harmful drugs, how drugs can change the way the mind and body works and the impact drugs can have on people’s lives. Children explore the power of advertising, peer pressure and social influences. We want to empower children to make informed decisions as they enter their teenage years.

**RELATIONSHIPS AND COMMUNITIES**

This strand focuses on connecting and relating to others. Lessons look at friendships and relationships as well as the need to show respect and consideration for others. Children learn about leadership and teamwork, coping with change, pressure and conflict, and digital citizenship. Bullying and cyber safety are often subjects schools request our expertise and support with.

**IDENTITY AND RESILIENCE**

Confidence in their own identity and where and how they fit in are challenges that come with growing up. Children learn about feelings and emotions, and that they are special and unique and it is okay to be different. Value is placed on the idea that each individual’s personality makes them unique and it shapes how they make decisions and respond to situations.

Life Education Trust shape their programme around these challenges, working to give students the skills and knowledge needed to make well-informed decisions - now and in the future. The programme is made up of five strands; they all interweave, because health and well-being is rarely isolated in a single topic.

Learn more and get contact details for your local Trust at www.lifedducation.org.nz

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**Attachment A**

**Item 8.1**
Life Education in Waitemata LB

- 4,556 students seen in 2017
- Thank you Waitemata LB for your financial support!

Ethnicity Statistics of Students

- European/Pakeha
- Maori
- Pacific Island
- Asian
- MELA
- Other
- International

Schools
- Bayfield
- Grey Lynn
- Marist
- Ponsonby Int.
- Ponsonby Primary
- Freemen's Bay
- Richmond Road
- St Joseph's
- St Mary's College
- St Paul's College
- Westmere College
The Western Springs Monterey Pine and Native Forest

“We do not so much look at things as overlook them.”
—Zen proverb

- I’m here as a Tree Advocate for the Western Springs Pine trees and understory which has been regenerating on this site since 1923, when the pines were planted.
- I have also been asked by Vaughan Clutterbuck, who represents the residents who are Key Stakeholders most affected by this proposal, to read a statement on his behalf as he is unable to attend this meeting. I’ll do this at the end. He also supports these submissions.
- Note: References to the statements following are in the information sheet as well as the Recommendations I am seeking.
- There has been no valuation of the Western Springs Pine and Native Forest. Yet Council thinks it can cut this asset down without considering its value to us.
- Mike Wilcox says the Western Springs Pines are the tallest trees in all Auckland.
- Taking into consideration their uniqueness, visual amenity in all directions, long association with Western Springs Park as well as the leisure amenity they provide, their capital value as amenity trees is high. Using the CAVAT system, the average tree on the scarp of Western Springs is worth at least $10,000, making a total capital asset value of about $2 million conservatively.
- Adding in the ecosystem and green infrastructure services these trees are performing for Auckland, (taking a value per average urban tree of $450 per year) these trees provide conservatively about $90,000 worth of ecosystem services per year. But these are far from average trees. They may also have conservatively another 30 years’ life, therefore their contribution to ecosystem services will total about $2.7 million if left to work.
- Taken together with the amenity value these ratepayer assets are conservatively worth approximately $4.7 million to Auckland ratepayers.
- The plan to destroy this Forest was considered and adopted by Waitemata Local Board in 2015. No consultation appears to have been undertaken on the plan other than a focus group of 4 in 2014. At that time resident’s concerns were raised, and the same issues remain. The Council Parks Arborist responsible for the maintenance of this Forest told me (last month) that he was arranging for resident consultation on the proposal. This now appears to have been dropped. Neither Council Arborist or WLB will answer my questions about why the plan is now being fast-tracked to Resource Consent without consultation. The Resource Consent hearing is not consultation. Residents would like a clear process that includes proper, legal consultation.
- The 2015 plan failed to recognise the residents sharing a boundary with the Forest as Key Stakeholders. These are the most affected people by this proposal because they live in concrete houses on top of the hill which was formed from landfill and is classified as “weak ground”.
- The Wildlands reports envisage a 4 year planting programme but WLB say it will happen straight after clear felling the Forest. Residents would like some clarity on the plan.
- The 2015 WLB report at point 28 states that “A geotechnical review of the area prior to any removals shall be commissioned in order to identify any instability issues that may arise from the removal of the pine trees. Should any
issues be identified this will need to be addressed as part of this project.

Residents and I have asked for this report and are still waiting for a copy of it.

- Currently the pines and understory are managing 10s of 1000s of gallons of rainwater. Removing the trees and the understory of this steeply-slope exposes Western Park Lake and Motions Stream to unacceptably large quantities of top soil sediment, already identified in the various reports on Western Springs as a serious threat.

- At the same time the proposed digging of 15,000 holes for new planting after removal is a recipe for disaster. In the first intense rain, top soil will run into the stream, lake and out to sea, threatening all life in the stream, lake, possibly Motions Creek and beyond. Common sense tells us once you strip this hillside you expose it to a multitude of potential ecological problems.

- These Pines also windbreak the south-westerlies and cool the air streams before they reach the city. They are mitigating the “heat island” effect of Auckland city. There will be a significant impact with rising temperatures locally and in the Central City if this important stand Forest is removed.

- This area was historically designated of special ecological significance, now classed a Significant Ecological Area. No proper ecological studies have been undertaken. A walk to look for herons and running bat detectors for a few days do not count as an ecological study.

- The bird life has not been studied. (If there are Morepork in Grey Lynn park then they are almost certainly in Western Springs no mention has been made of them; potential problems may be caused by Harrier hawks, they are in Waterview 4km away, clear felling being a favoured habitat, which could cause problems at the Zoo;)

- There are no studies for how long it will be before bird life can return to the forest. At best it will be a plant nursery for 5 years. For the next 10 years the area will have no better value than bush scrub. The area will need over 20 years before it is useable for birds and 30 to 50 years for tree nest sites to develop.

- The largest plants to be planted are PBSs I have brought one along to show you.

- The claim that the planting will provide us with a native podocarp forest is so wildly ambitious as to be nearly disingenuous.

- The planting will not deliver a forest for at least 20 years. The proposal to plant PBS sized Kauri and Kahikatea will not see them grow to any significant size even in that time. And failure rates are likely to be high. There should be some large specimens.

- The costs to maintain these saplings will be expensive, controlling weeds using Glyphosate as proposed is inconsistent with WLB policies and potentially dangerous to the aquatic birds, eels and fish.

- In summary this planting plan should not be done all at once. It needs to be done over time when the budget allows for significant plants of importance to achieve the vision of the project. What are the terms in place after the first 12 months, are ratepayers getting the best value for the money? Are these contracts following best practice of tendering rather than using, preferred contractors?

- The Wildlands reports recommend a long-tail bat study before works. This appears not to have been done.

- The long-tailed bat has the highest threat ranking of “nationally critical”

- Destroying potential habitat of a vulnerable species is not permitted under RMA.
• In its own submissions to DOC in 2017 regarding The Threatened Species Strategy Council states it is “a committed and active manager of threatened species. We engage in this work in response to our requirements under the RMA to protect significant indigenous vegetation and the habitats of significant indigenous fauna as a matter of national importance, and to maintain indigenous biodiversity. We are also mandated by the LGA to deliver on our communities’ strong expectations for healthy and accessible indigenous biodiversity on public and private land. As the owner of significant areas of public reserve and parkland in Auckland, the Council has a significant opportunity to showcase to the public best practice conservation management.”

• According to Auckland’s ‘Native forest restoration guide’ “To restore an area successfully takes planning, effort and time.” My stress on ‘time’ given what appears to be the haste proposed in this plan.

• According to DOC guidelines “restoration planting ... involves ... encouraging natural processes, such as plant succession.” A huge planting in one swoop, is not ‘encouraging natural processes.’

• And “Restoration plantings contribute to nature conservation, but they are second-best and far more expensive than protection” of existing growth. Yet Council plans envisage major destruction of the natural regeneration. DOC points out (ibid.) that “Nature puts plants in the right places. Self-established plants are normally more healthy.” Your plans threaten 70% of what nature has achieved in 90 years.

• The whole emphasis of this plan is not for the long-term future and benefit of this Special Ecological Area but to get rid of the trees as cheaply and quickly as possible. That’s a recipe for Ecological Disaster that could last for years.

• The reports reveal a confusion between native forest restoration and creating an urban park. The loop pathway proposal suits a park, but not bush restoration. It also maximises the argument for removing all the trees. It should be dropped.

• The primary intention of residents is to achieve (1) minimise loss of the native bush; and (2) make people safe. Residents want:
  - Surgical removal of trees pre-disposed to failure;
  - Minimising of loss and damage to the existing regenerating vegetation of mostly native bush;
  - Phased restoration planting over several years leading to replacement specimen trees.
  - To work with Council in partnership to manage the Forest and its future development.
  - We need you to show leadership on this and stand up for your community. That means not taking the cheapest, nuclear option.
  - We want to be working together with you on this.

• Nowhere is the lack of maintenance of this Forest considered. This is extremely relevant to any forest management going forward. The Western Springs Pine Forest has become a problem because of a lack of skilled forest management and the total failure to make good on the replanting promises made over the years. Going forward there is nothing I can find in the documentation that I have seen that convinces me that Auckland Council’s management of this Forest will be any different in the future.
Recommendations:

1. WLB set up a process of consultation with residents that complies with the legal definition.
2. WLB publish the Geotechnical review report and the Long-tail bat study.
3. WLB stop the Resource Consent process and work with residents on this project to produce the very best result for both Residents and the Forest. Residents are willing to step up to help manage and develop this Forest right now and for future generations.
Fact sheet for submissions to WLB Tues 17 April 2018

1. Wilcox, Mike; Auckland’s Remarkable Urban Forest: Auckland Botanical Society; p.179

2. CAVAT (Capital Asset Value of Amenity Trees) system of assessing the amenity value of urban trees. https://www.ltoa.org.uk/documents-l/capital-asset-value-for-amenity-trees-cavat

3. Taking CAVAT figures very conservatively (stem diameter 40-49cm, unit value factor 15.88, CTI rating 150%, Functional Adjustment 25%, Life expectancy factor 10-20 years) and using the CAVAT Quick Method, the average tree value on the scarp of Western Springs is over $10,000, making a total capital asset value of about $2 million. In fact many trees have DBH (diameter at breast height) of 1m or more.

These trees also provide the local community and Auckland city with ecosystem and green infrastructure services worth around $90,000 per year (taking a median value per average urban tree of $450 per tree per year which is calculated from the range. Auckland Council tree valuation of $2.53, and around $900 of London). These trees provide around $90,000 worth of ecosystem services and benefits to Auckland per year.

They may have another 50 years of life (http://www.ueanr.org/sites/treefail/files/4388.pdf). Allowing, conservatively another 30 years of life with some losses, this would make their contribution to ecosystem services a possible $2.7 million if left alone.

4. Amenity value of approx. $2 million plus ecosystem services and benefits value of approximately $2.7 million = Western Pine and Native Forest is worth conservatively approximately $4.7 million to Auckland ratepayers.

5. The oldest Radiata pine tree in New Zealand is at Mt Peel Station in the South Island it was planted in 1859. It is 159 years old. (Te Ara Encyclopaedia of NZ). This refutes the claim that the Western Springs Monterey Pines are at the end of their lives. It refutes the claim that Radiata pine life span is 80-90 years

Recommendations

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2. WLB publish the Geotechnical review report and the Long-tailed bat study.
3. WLB stop the Resource Consent process and work with residents on this project to produce the very best result for both Residents and the Forest. Residents are willing to step up to help manage and develop this Forest right now and for future generations.
Statement of Vaughan Clutterbuck

I live at 16 West View Road. My back fence borders the Western Springs Pine and Native Forest.

I represent a number of Residents in my local community who will be affected by the proposal to destroy the Western Springs Forest. We have not been consulted on this plan.

We are very worried about the stability of the hillside with the heavy machinery and removal of the big trees that are currently stabilising the hillside and managing the 10s of 1000s of gallons of water that the prevailing weather drops on this hillside every year.

I have asked for information about the geotechnical report but have not yet received any information.

Some residents have mentioned the idea of retaining walls and we would like Council and WLDB to look into that proposal.

Personally I am very stressed by this proposed project, and so are my neighbours. It is being imposed on us without any consultation, by people who do not live in our community and do not have to put up with the chain saws and heavy machinery 7am to 5pm Mon to Fri for 2 months right on our doorsteps. All the while knowing that the Forest we love so much is being needlessly destroyed.

The Residents have taken expert advice on the safety issues from a local expert who is very familiar with this forest. It is clear to the residents that this plan is not the only way to manage the safety issues in this Forest.

Residents want Council and WLDB to work together with the local community to work out a plan that would be the best outcome for the community, those who use the amenity of the Forest, and the Forest and biodiversity the itself.

Totally destroying the Forest is just one not very well thought through way which we do not support.