

## 7. JOHN BRITTEN RESERVE - LANDSCAPE PLAN

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| <b>Officer responsible</b><br>Greenspace Manager | <b>Author</b><br>Kathryn Howard, Parks and Waterways Area Advocate Hagley/Ferrymead,<br>DDI 941-6614 |
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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Board approval to commence community consultation on the landscape plan for the John Britten Reserve including a proposal for a memorial Aeolian Harp.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. At its meeting on the 26 January 2005 the Board resolved to seek a report on *“the current landscape plans for the reserve, the proposed consultation to identify community views, including the Aeolian Harp and clarification on whether this is a metropolitan or a local decision”*.
3. The 35 hectare John Britten Reserve, in the eastern Port Hills, was purchased by the Council in 1996 for its scenic, ecological and recreational qualities and to control urban expansion on the Port Hills. The former owner of the land requested that it be called the John Britten Reserve in his honour. A concept plan, including a site for a memorial to John Britten was prepared in 1997 but was never adopted. The land is currently grazed and mostly used by walkers and rock climbers accessing the Mt Pleasant bluffs on adjoining reserves. With the development of the adjoining residential development, a new roading alignment through John Britten Reserve is also proposed.
4. The John Britten Reserve Trust was formed in 2001 to assist the Council in developing the John Britten Reserve. In 2002 the Trust proposed that an Aeolian Harp be installed in the reserve in 2005 to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Britten’s death. An independent landscape assessment of the proposal was commissioned by the Greenspace Unit which concluded that *“the John Britten Reserve does not provide any suitable location for the Aeolian Harp sculpture.”* The Trust disputed this assessment and wishes to pursue locating the Aeolian Harp on the reserve in an alternative location. A new draft landscape plan showing this has been prepared (see attachments 1 and 2.)
5. It is proposed that community views about John Britten Reserve, including the proposed memorial Aeolian Harp, should now be sought.
6. As the John Britten Reserve is managed as a regional park, final decisions on its development rest with the Council, however the Board could recommend commencing the community consultation phase. Finalising the landscape plan for John Britten Reserve including the Trust’s proposal would require:
  - Undertaking community consultation via a letterbox drop to surrounding residents and community groups, holding an information session with an opportunity to view the landscape plan, scale model and recordings of sound from the Aeolian Harp, displaying information on an on-site noticeboard and on the Council’s website and inviting feedback through written submissions.
  - Evaluating the existing landscape assessment.
  - Undertaking noise and other technical assessments.
  - Undertaking financial assessments.
  - Reporting findings to the Board then the Council for a final landowner decision.

### FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

7. The Trust estimates that the Aeolian Harp would cost \$250,000 to install. The Council has not allocated any funds for this proposal but has allocated \$4,000 for track improvement and signage in 2004/05, \$150,000 in 2006/07 and 2007/08 for a road realignment through the reserve. The Trust has indicated that they would seek funding, including from the Council, if landowner consent was given for their proposal.
8. A resource consent would be needed for the installation of an Aeolian Harp, which may be publicly notified.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board recommend approval for community consultation on the John Britten Reserve landscape plan including the proposed memorial Aeolian Harp.

**CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION**

That the recommendation be adopted.