

Tabled Information - Reference 004/13PT(i)

Want to see the Ministry of Education Land at Abel Smith Street added to the town belt due to the following clauses and principles outlined in the **Draft Town Belt Management Plan October 2012**.

Originally was town belt land and want it reinstated for the following reasons.

Smart Capital plans (towards 2040): eco-city, people centred-city

1.5 Central City Framework (2011) Cross valley links: “the greening on city streets with ‘urban forest’ across the valley will enhance urban ecology and reduce the hardness of the city-scape. This will also provide corridors across the valley to join the town belts and enhance accessibility.”

- Corridor for Kaka and tui, morepork and other native birds
- Access between Aro Valley and Te Aro school, the Terrace, Victoria university and Kelburn.

Draft Town Belt Management Plan October 2012

The Town Belt’s landscape character will be protected and enhanced:

- The contrast between the patchwork of native and exotic vegetation and the densely developed CBD.

The Town Belt will support healthy populations of indigenous biodiversity:

- Sufficient natural habitat to maintain native animal populations, kaka, tui, fantail, morepork, grey warbler, wax eye all frequent the area and we know that most species nest there.
- Kaka often there after dark also, breeding/nesting?

Policy 2.7 Assessment criteria for addition of land to the town belt:

- Geographic location and close visual relationship with central city and inner suburbs: Aro Valley, Devon Street and Kelburn all look at the gully and breaks up the flow of housing and harsh residential landscape.
- Patchwork and diversity of vegetation cover: mix of well-established native and exotic trees including punga, oak, gum and broad leaf.

Policy 2.9.4 Town belt additions

Land shall be added to the town belt that complements and strengthens the distinctive town belt character based on the following criteria:

- Has a visual connection with the central city and/or inner suburbs: as stated Aro Valley, Devon Street and Kelburn
- Land that may have ecological features that require protection: Kaka (both tagged and native here on a daily basis), morepork every night, faintails, tuis, wax eye and grey warblers
- Land that may have been part of the original 1841 town belt: This area was!

Tabled Information - Reference 004/13PT(i)

Policy 4.2 Landscape objectives

4.2.1 To protect the town belt as a predominantly natural environment in contrast to the built up city environment

4.2.2 To recognise and protect the unique landscape character of the town belt and in particular the:

- Diversity of landscape aesthetic and experience: breaks up harsh residential environment as well as being a beautiful walkway between Aro Valley and the terrace or up to Kelburn.
- Patchwork of native and exotic vegetation: see images
- Maintenance of a mature/large tree framework: in particular the majestic gum tree that towers over the area and is a sanctuary for birds as well as providing an aesthetically appealing view for much of the Aro Valley and Kelburn.

4.2.4 To recognise and protect the role of the town belt landscape in terms of:

- Providing an unbuilt visual backdrop and skyline to Wellington: as stated for Aro valley and Kelburn
- Land that provides environmental services such as urban biodiversity, stormwater management and as a carbon sink: breaks up built up residential area and provides a greener outlook, slows water run off through a steep gully and avoids erosion due to tree roots and ground covering plus provides valuable “lungs” in the central city.

Policy 5.2 Current ecological values:

- “it is also a corridor for bringing nature into the city”: especially true in terms of providing a habitat and safe haven for kaka (including wild ones), tui, fantail, wax eye and grey warbler populations.

Policy 5.5 Protecting the biodiversity of the town belt

5.5.1 “the council will identify and restore all ecologically important areas on the town belt: this area holds true to this for the stated reasons and therefore should be added.

5.5.13 Revegetation priorities will be based on:

- Rarity: “an eco-system type in a locality that does or could support a rare or threatened species”: Kaka, here every day including wild ones
- Connectivity and buffering- area provides habitats as well as providing seasonal or core habitat for specific indigenous species: namely kaka, tui, fantail, morepork and wax eye populations.