

Tabled Information - Reference 010/13PT(j)

ORAL SUBMISSION BY THE WELLINGTON CIVIC TRUST TO A
COMMITTEE OF COUNCILLORS ON FRIDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2013

DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR TOWN BELT LEGISLATION

Definition of Public Recreation Ground

1. Reiterate our paragraph 9, i.e.

“The primary purpose will be to maintain the Legal Town Belt as open, informal recreation space

accessible to the inhabitants of the city at all times

without charge.”

(spaces in the text created solely for emphasis)

Rights of Appeal

2. Provision needs to be made for rights of appeal to decisions made by Councillors as Trustees and by officials exercising explicit delegated powers.

Areas That Can be Leased

3. The Act should specify 6 hectares as the maximum.

As a proportion of the total land area, flat land, readily accessible on foot or by private vehicle is small.

The amenity value of such land will grow as more live within or near the inner city.

Prohibition on Powers to be Exercised

4. The Act needs to explicitly set out the activities which must not take place on the Town Belt. These include:
 - Longterm commercial activities
 - Formal educational activities and playcentres
 - Access for private and commercial motorised vehicles.

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Public Involvement

5. As well as defining appeal rights, the Act should require notification of all major leases and licences followed by public hearings and ratification by the full Council.

Town Belt Curator

6. The establishment of this role is seen as being sufficiently important to warrant the appointment being made mandatory under the Act.

Town Belt a Defining Feature in Perpetuity

7. The Town Belt has many dimensions. One of the pleasures it evokes is when seen from a distance. Hopefully this will be more evident over time as large indigenous trees gradually establish their presence.

The Civic Trust applauds those organisations and individuals who have advocated a 300 to 500-year perspective.

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SUPPLEMENTARY POINTS TO WELLINGTON CIVIC TRUST'S SUBMISSION ON TOWN BELT LEGISLATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN TO A COMMITTEE OF CITY COUNCILLORS ON FRIDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2013

POSSIBLE WAYS OF ACHIEVING FLEXIBILITY WITHIN A STATUTORY MAXIMUM AREA OF 6 HECTARES FOR LEASEHOLD LAND

1. encourage clubs to share buildings and to move away from exclusive use
2. have winter and summer sports alternating, eg rugby then softball
3. maximise use of artificial surfaces, eg floodlights for night time play and practice
4. encourage amalgamation of declining sports clubs, eg lawn bowls
5. favour sports that can share buildings and playing fields, and locate elsewhere and further away those that require exclusive use, eg croquet
6. constrain the size of centralised sports hubs and overall dependence on them. Instead foster a trend to multi-purpose neighbourhood facilities further away from the centre
7. require professional sporting teams presently leasing land on the Town Belt to provide access to playing fields outside agreed practice times
8. further encourage public access to the playing fields of schools and colleges
9. remove or demolish buildings not being adequately used or maintained

ABOVE ALL, THE REQUIREMENT THAT
ALTERNATIVE SITES BE
EXTENSIVELY EXPLORED