

Makara Rural Community Plan

Executive Summary

The Plan

This plan was developed over middle to late 2001 and is about Makara - its environment, its people and its future. It seeks to span the areas in which the Wellington City Council and the Makara community interact in relation to service delivery, environmental management and the manner in which the community is involved in decisions directly affecting its members and the Makara environment. It is a non-statutory document, which means that it is guiding only and does not override legislation or other statutory documents of the Wellington City Council such as its Annual Plan or District Plan.

The Area

The Makara Rural Community Plan covers the rural land west of the Karori Stream and Te Wharangi Ridge up to Takarau Gorge. It includes the settlements of Makara Village and Makara Beach, as well as the largest landholding in Wellington, Terawhiti Station.

Significant Issues

Protection of the unique character and rural amenity of Makara was the number one issue identified by the community. The exact nature of this character and amenity was widely discussed, debated and passionately argued in the preparation of this document. The outcome has been to make the maintenance and enhancement of Makara's rural amenity the overriding objective for the area in this community plan.

Related to the issue of amenity, the management of non-rural activities was another much debated aspect in the evolution of this plan and it was clear that the overwhelming majority of the community wishes to see a distinction retained between rural and non-rural activities. Linked to this response was a high level of support for the current District Plan provisions.

Traffic safety and roading and the scope of further subdivision were less debated issues but still featured in consultation responses. Support for a reduction in speed limits and safety improvements on roads throughout Makara was widespread. Most within the Community appear to favour either no further subdivision in the area or a restricted approach, similar to the current situation.

Key Proposals

- In terms of projects, future annual plan funding could be directed toward roading safety improvements, a gateway project for the Makara Saddle and possibly enhancement of the role of the Makara Café as a community facility, including a playground. The Makara/Ohariu Community Board can identify priorities and seek funding for these and other projects through the Council's Annual Plan process
- In terms of environmental management, most of the community indicated confidence in the current District Plan provisions
- From community feedback, the most significant effects to be avoided, remedied or mitigated in Makara appear to be loss of rural amenity, management of streams, coastal waters and groundwater, conflicts between road users and unsafe roads and inappropriate development on ridgelines.
- Retain the current District Plan distinction between rural and non-rural activities