

4.2 PRIVATE LAND IN THE OUTER GREEN BELT

4.2.1 OBJECTIVES

1. To advocate to private landowners and the wider community the vision for the Outer Green Belt as contained in this Plan.
2. To foster interest and involvement by private landowners in the achievement of the Outer Green Belt vision.
3. To provide practical advice and, subject to the availability of Wellington City Council resources, appropriate assistance to private landowners for work which directly contributes to the Outer Green Belt vision.

4.2.2 POLICIES

4.2.2.1 Council relationship with adjoining landowners

- a) *The Council will endeavour to maintain good relationships with all adjoining landowners in the Outer Green Belt.*
- b) *To achieve good relationships with other land owners, particular attention in land management will be given to avoiding, remedying or mitigating boundary issues (pest management, access management, fire risk management, fencing, etc).*

4.2.2.2 The role of private land in the Outer Green Belt vision

- a) *The Council will promote awareness that the Outer Green Belt concept, and the values upon which it is based, spans private as well as public land, and the positive role private landowners can play in achieving the Outer Green Belt vision.*
- b) *The Council will maintain a list of all private landowners within the Outer Green Belt concept area and keep these landowners informed about significant issues and opportunities regarding the Outer Green Belt.*
- c) *Landowners will be encouraged to use and manage their land in ways which contribute to the achievement of Outer Green Belt objectives for landscapes, ecosystems and recreation access.*
- d) *The Council will work with other agencies, including Greater Wellington, The Department of Conservation and QEII National Trust to help landowners get information about, access to, the various forms of assistance which may be available for conservation initiatives on private land.*

Explanation

Landowners often have a deep and long held affection for their land and are increasingly aware of its importance for biodiversity and other environmental qualities. What they sometimes lack is knowledge of the sorts of assistance that may be available for improving conservation management and protection on private land.

4.2.2.3 Uses of private land

- a) *Sustainable pastoral uses which respect landscape and ecological values, and any land use that either protects or improves biodiversity, will be encouraged on private land.*
- b) *Plantation forestry on the upper slopes, ridgetops and hilltops, and within the stream environments of the Outer Green Belt will be discouraged.*
- c) *The construction of buildings on ridgetops and hilltops within the Outer Green Belt will be discouraged.*
- d) *Land uses which involve significant modifications to landform, particularly on ridgetops and hilltops within the Outer Green Belt, will be discouraged.*
- e) *The removal of known primary and secondary bush remnants will be discouraged.*

Explanation

Many areas of private land will continue to be farmed and this has been proven as a sound and sustainable use of some parts of the Outer Green Belt (aside from the loss of the original indigenous ecosystems). Other more localised land uses can have both positive and negative effects.

There are many examples around New Zealand of pastoral or agricultural uses mixed in with conservation (and in some cases public access), providing comprehensively sustainable land use patterns.