

Kāpiti-Mana Forest and Bird Newsletter

September 2021

Chair's Request : Please write a submission on **Grazing Queen Elizabeth Park**



Over the last few years, we and the Friends of QEP have fought for the wetlands of Queen Elizabeth Park. We have had astounding success with 85 hectares of peat wetlands being retired from farming, rewetted and restored and with 50 hectares of dunelands being revegetated. Previously, 380 hectares (60%) of the park was farmed using intensive spray methods and off limits to the public, now 208 hectares (32%) remains as area that GW thinks it can graze using less intense methods.

That includes 65 hectares (10%) of QEP peat wetland or former peat wetland (with some very small enclosed dunes).

The rest 143 hectares are dunes, which include the many small sand bottomed wetlands with drains through them. GW itself has said that unmodified dunelands such as QEP's are now rare.

GW's proposal is now proposing to graze those remaining 208 hectares of wetlands and dunelands with no regard to the peat, the peat wetlands, the rare dunelands and their even rarer sand wetlands.

GW intend to allow the grazer to use herbicides and fertilizers and they intend to raise beef and sheep. Beef is the highest carbon content meat by far and fertilizer emits one of the worst greenhouse gasses, nitrous oxide.

In the Parks Networks Plan process the public expressed concern about the farming operation. No one supported continuation of grazing, so GW does not have a public mandate to do this.

Now is the time to get access to the whole park as park's legislation requires. Now is the time to allow and help the park to restore itself with us nullifying some of the effects that the field drains still have, and to continuing planting. We cannot plant the park without Nature's help and grazing with the use of herbicides and fertilizers will keep Nature from doing this.

I am asking you to write a submission to GW. Rather than ask you to write this or that, I have written a list of suggestions for you to use or not as you wish. SEE OPPOSITE Consultation is about getting a range of opinions so all submissions will help.

Submissions close on 1 October 2021.

We'll get back to a more newsy newsletter in October, but for now your submission would be a great help for nature.

Russell

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Your feedback on this newsletter would be most welcome as would contributions to future newsletters.

POINTS TO CONSIDER IN YOUR SUBMISSION ON THE GRAZING OF QEP:

Do not graze the dunes or wetlands of QEP.

Do not allow a grazer to use herbicides or fertilizer.

Rewet and restore the wetlands of QEP, don't graze them.

The dunes are precious, don't graze them either.

We cannot recreate if we don't have access to the park, and there are parts of the park we have never been allowed to see.

Don't graze cows or use fertilizer. They are both bad for climate change.

Other parks have large areas that are left to recover naturally. Do that for QEP.

I don't like the use of any herbicides. Don't use them.

I disagree with the grazing proposal.

The current GW Parks Network plan does not support grazing.

GW's Long term plan is about using parks as climate sinks, how does grazing peatlands align with this? (It doesn't).

Submissions should be sent to

parksplanning@gw.govt.nz

Or you can log into Have your say Greater Wellington (but it's less flexible) here:

https://haveyoursay.gw.govt.nz/qep-grazing/survey_tools/submission-form-ideas1

Submissions close on 1 October 2021

OUR NEXT MEETING IS PLANNED FOR:

Wednesday 22 September 2021

N.B. : If we are allowed - at LEVEL ONE only...

At 7:30pm (from 7pm for a cuppa if allowed)

At Waikanae Presbyterian Church Hall

43 Ngaio Road, Waikanae [map link](#)

Our speaker is **Andrew Stewart**

on **Marine Pests and the trouble they cause.**