

New Zealand Four Wheel Drive Association  
National President  
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Upper Hutt



29 September 2003

Greater Wellington, The Regional Council  
Box 11-646  
Wakefield Street  
Wellington

Attn Trecia Smith

Dear Trecia

**Submission - Draft Regional Forest Lands Plan**

The New Zealand Four Wheel Drive Association is the National Body representing the interests and aspirations of 4WD Clubs and their Members throughout the length and breadth of New Zealand.

In this respect, some 8 or 9 Clubs located within the Wellington Region are affected and therefore interested in the proposed Plan. Some of our affiliate Clubs may be making submissions in their own right, and the Association enjoys strong ties with the local ARAC group and Tread Lightly! New Zealand, who are likely also to be making submissions directly to you.

The Association through ARAC, has been extensively involved in the very early consultative process with representation on the reference groups that met last year (and the year before?).

It is with this background that we would like on behalf of our Members and Affiliates, to make the following observations and submissions:-

- In general, we believe Greater Wellington are to be congratulated on the quality, rigour and adherence to detail found in the Draft Plan. It is a credit to those who have worked so hard to produce this current document.
- The incorporation of the earlier Motorised Recreational Management Plan within this new Draft Plan is commendable. However, that earlier Management plan was a “living document”. It appears that by inclusion within

the Draft Plan, it is in danger of losing some of the pliability it previously had – it may lose its ability to adapt to changing circumstances.

- In particular, the ability to review the available tracks as they now exist seems to be lost. Perhaps the inclusion of a review process, equitable to all concerned, would address this issue.
- Some member Clubs are of the opinion that the Pukuratahi Forest would afford additional recreational opportunities. Our information is that there are many formed tracks within this Forest that would afford the opportunity to spread the increased concentrations of recreational vehicles over a much wider area, thereby mitigating some impacts caused by high use.
- The Association is concerned by charges being made to just one section of the Recreational Community – 4WDs. Simply because Greater Wellington can collect fees from 4WDs does not make the process equitable, when all other users gain free access (other than large organised events). This inequality seems unjust and somewhat repugnant to the kiwi concept of fair-play.

We would welcome the opportunity to speak to this submission, and answer any questions that might be raised as a result.

For and on behalf of  
The New Zealand Four Wheel Drive Association

Andy Cockroft  
President