Friends of
Taupo Swamp
& Catchment

Kia ora Taupo Swamp Supporters

Now that we are emerging from our lock-down we can start to think about what we can do for Taupo Swamp and Catchment.

Please make a diary note of these planned days for weeding and planting, subject to Covid-19 restrictions.

We have purchased 1800 plants/trees for planting this winter and spring.

Saturdays: June 6, Jul 4, Aug 1, Sept 5, Oct 3.... ie the 1st Saturday of the month. 9 am-midday

Thursdays: June 25, Jul 9, Jul 30, Aug 13, Aug 20 ... 9 am to midday. This will be in conjunction with trainees from Conservation Volunteers NZ

In addition the Rotary Club of Plimmerton, with support from FOTSC, Conservation Volunteers NZ, PCC and MPI are working on a plan for planting several thousand trees on Plimmerton Domain.

Can I encourage all of you to make a submission about Plimmerton Farm Developments.

PCC has gained approval from the Ministry for Environment for MfE commissioners to hold a hearing about the proposed plan change for Plimmerton Farm ie the 20 year urbanisation of the 380 hectare Plimmerton Farm. All of this catchment drains into the greater Taupo Swamp, Taupo Stream and Plimmerton Beach.

Further details are below.

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May 21, 2020.

Greetings from Friends of Taupo Swamp & Catchment (FOTSC)

PLIMMERTON FARM PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE

No doubt you are aware of the notification this week from Porirua City Council:

"Proposed Plan Change 18 Plimmerton Farm to the Porirua City District Plan Using a Streamlined Planning Process".

FOTSC has been engaging with a number of key stakeholders in the proposed development of this land over the past 18 months or so. We have made submissions and met face to face with PCC, the developers, GWRC, QEII National Trust, Forest & Bird and many other local, regional and national interest groups.

Few people have actually had the opportunity to walk over Plimmerton farmland and see its wetlands, streams, wooded valleys etc. FOTSC members were able, with the permission of the developers, to do just that late last year. It was a sobering day.

The opportunity to make a submission to the proposed plan change will be the last chance we have to advocate for the unique ecological systems on that land. Our underlying concerns lie around water quality, and the management of sedimentation. **We are working to these basic principles, which remain unchanged:**

a. INFORMATION. That before any development takes place the current ecological assessments of the land encompassed by Plimmerton Farm need to be competently independently peer reviewed

b. CONDITIONS. All plans for development of that land must contain detailed meaningful methods of mitigating ecological risks - Risks to the catchment and the wetlands on that land, and to the ecologically functioning wetland systems within the whole of the Taupo Swamp catchment, and particularly the Taupo Swamp Complex.

c. ENFORCEMENT. Implementation of the proposed development must contain thorough & rigorous enforcement of conditions set down by the MfE, GWRC and any other governing bodies. With insights gained from current local developments, FOTSC sees non-compliance with agreed conditions as a major threat to the unique ecological systems within the Farm area, and to the wider catchment.

FOTSC sees its role in this instance as advocating for the best environmental outcomes for the urban development of Plimmerton Farm. We cannot do this alone.

The timeline for submissions is short. Can we encourage you/ your organisation to take this "last chance" opportunity to air your views?

Submissions need to be in by July 2. These is a chance for additional feedback once PCC has circulated the first round of submissions for discussion.

Details can be found here:

https://poriruacity.govt.nz/your-council/getting-involved/public-consultation/proposed-plan-change-18-plimmerton-farm/

If you have any feedback we would love to hear from you. If you are happy to keep us updated as to any actions your group might take we would welcome that too.

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Bill McAulay

Judy McKoy

FOTSC