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Town House 38
221 Abbotts Way
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Auckland 1050

July 7, 2015

Auckland Council
Department of Infrastructure & Environmental Services

Dear Auckland Council,

Support for Retention of Bushy Area East of Alum Street, Kohimarama

This morning I have visited the bushy gully area to east of Alum Street at the invitation of Mrs Frances Battersby who is trying to have this area preserved as a bushy sanctuary for wild life.

1 Native Bush and Native Birds

While the area has an abundance of pest plants including wild ginger, jasmine vine and tradescantia, there are wonderful stands of tree ferns, mahoe and kawakawa with many regenerating native plants including kohekohe, red matipo and coprosma. Getting rid of pest plants would not be difficult. The canopy that trees like privet provides shelter and allow native species to grow and eventually take over from the weed plants.

In 2012 Auckland Council approved the concept of "Eastern Songbird Project" to encourage the establishment of a pest free area in the Eastern Bays area to provide habitat restoration and food for the native birds that will be flying over from the bird sanctuaries of Rangitoto, Motutapu and Motuihe. While this project has been slow to get off the ground, it is certainly not forgotten. Areas such as the bushy gully east of Alum Street will be key areas to provide habitat for these birds.

2 Stormwater Control

I do recall in the 1960's or 70's Auckland City had to deal with a stormwater problem in the Kohimarama gully by building flood retention dams which I understand are in this bushy gully. These dams were quite innovative at the time and overcame a serious flooding problem downstream. The bush in the gully area has a significant effecting on mitigating stormwater run-off flows. These are likely to become more sever in future due to climate change.

A proposal to subdivide this gully for housing would increase stormwater flows due to new impervious areas of roading, driveways and housing. There would be significantly increased vulnerability of the built-up area to damaging flood events.

This bushy gully is very important to the Eastern Bays region and should be acquired by Auckland Council.

Yours sincerely



John La Roche
B E (Civil), FIPENZ, MZNM
Enclosed Auckland Council Letter 20/6/2012

20 June 2012

John Le Roche
35 Geraldine Place
Kohimarama
Auckland 1071

Dear John

Eastern Bays Songbird Project

Further to your meeting, with John Laurence and our Brett Butland, of 5 June where you discussed your proposed Eastern Bays Songbird Project, and your letter of 6 June, the following refers:

I have read your project summary, including your vision to create a safe habitat for native songbirds between Hobson Bay and Tamaki River, and have noted your mission and objectives.

Establishing a pest free area, by reducing animal pests such as rodents, mustelids and hedgehogs, will enable habitat restoration to support native birds in the Eastern Bays. The outcome of this long term project is exciting and ambitious but challenging. It will require planning, engagement of a variety of groups, organisations and landowners, and a lot of commitment. However I am pleased to convey the Biosecurity Team's endorsement of your project.

I note that you are not specifically seeking funding from Auckland Council to enable this project but the Biosecurity Team is able to provide advice on suitable methodologies and can further assist with design of a pest management plan, if you so desire. Please note that some of the sites you have identified for inclusion in the project are managed by the Local & Sports Parks Team and these may already have pest control activity which may have bearing on your proposed project – this aspect should be discussed with my colleague Mark Bowater (phone 09-365 3080). Local & Sports Parks funds all pest control on local parks and reserves.

At your convenience, please contact Brett Butland (brett.butland@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz or 365 3510) for further assistance.

Yours sincerely



Jack Crow
Manager Biosecurity, Environmental Services Unit

Copy: Mark Bowater, Manager Local and Sports Parks
Email: mark.bowater@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz