

STAFF REPORT

TO: Council's Enterprises Subcommittee
FROM: Manager Property Services
DATE: 9 February 2011
SUBJECT: Forest Recreational Access Policy – RFN11-02-03

PURPOSE

To consider the adoption of a new Forest Recreational Access Policy. The draft Policy is appended to this report.

BACKGROUND

The Council owns forests primarily for commercial purposes. Recreational use is already extensive but opportunities exist for further recreational use where this can be managed cost-effectively.

The Policy outlines provisions and objectives that allow for the recreational demands of the forests in the district, while:

- minimising disruption to commercial forestry management and harvesting activities
- protecting the forests from any undue risks due to fire or disease
- protecting the health and safety of authorised forest users
- minimising environmental disturbance and damage to forest infrastructure (eg roads)
- minimising any liability to Council (the Forest Manager may require evidence of public liability insurance and forest fire fighting cover for certain permitted activities)

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Council's Enterprises Subcommittee adopt the Forest Recreational Access Policy as attached to this report RFN11-02-03.

Jim Frater
Manager Property Services