

# WWI Memorial Forests

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**TO** Economic Development Committee  
**FROM** Ben Dunbar-Smith - Economic Development Programme Manager  
**DATE** 5 June 2015  
**SUBJECT** **WWI Memorial Forests**

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## **1 Purpose of Report**

The 18 May report currently before the 9 June EDC on the order paper sets out the planned schedule for the WW1 Forests. This supplementary report adds the financial expenditure related to each forest for the Committee's consideration, and reasons for the staging of some of the forests.

## **2 Reason for Late report**

Budgets were finalised after the agenda deadline, which precluded this report being included in the agenda. Approval from the Committee is required on the specific details of expenditure by forest.

## **3 Background**

As detailed in the primary report, the following trees are proposed to be planted at these nominated sites:

- Cathedral Cove (Gallipoli) 2779 trees.
- Stella Evered Trust, Purangi (Battle of the Somme 1916 & 1918) - 5000 trees
- Coromandel, Albert Street (Coromandel war dead) - 39 trees
- Coromandel, Hauraki Road (Supreme Sacrifice) - 1000 trees
- Thames, Rhodes Park (Thames War dead) - 249 trees
- Whitianga cemetery (Passchendaele) - 2000 trees
- Tairua cemetery (Tairua war dead) - 48 trees
- Tangiatarori Lane, Pauanui (Sinai-Palentine) - 640 trees.
- Whangamata, Durrants Drive (Le Quesnoy) - 122 trees
- Other sites, such as the Battle of Messines have yet to be confirmed.

## **4 Discussion**

In its 28th January 2015 meeting, Council approved the funding option of providing for a 10 year planting and care plan for the forests. This Option C, which involved contractors preparing the sites, volunteers planting the trees, and then contractors undertaking the spraying and aftercare, came in at an estimate \$452,556. Council agreed to underwrite this sum, but expects that much of this costing will be recovered through grants from external agencies, or from the sale of trees to members of the public.

On 28th January, Council agreed to fund \$65,000 of expenditure from existing Council funds in the 2014/15 financial year. Since that time, a grant of \$40,000 has been received from the Waikato Regional Council's environmental initiatives fund, which brings the overall budget for this financial year to \$105,000.

Progress has been made on providing other solutions to some of the longer-term care issues with Wintec students making an informal agreement to look after the Cathedral Cove site on a long-term basis. In addition it is anticipated that the plantings at the Hauraki Road

wastewater treatment plant will form part of ongoing operations. These areas of additional support are likely to help reduce the overall level of funding required for both initial site preparation and also long-term maintenance.

Of the \$105,000 for this 2014/15 financial year, it is proposed to expend the following on each of these specific sites. This is additional to the funds spent from the parks budgets of the five community boards. Note that this planting plan may in some instances involve the pre-purchase of trees, which will be held at a nursery until required for planting.

- Cathedral Cove - \$30,000 for purchase of 2779 trees, fertiliser, staking, mulching, design of planting plan, and costs associated with Minister's visit (buses for schoolchildren etc)
- Stella Evered - \$2,000 for design of planting plan. Planting on hold pending WW1 Lotteries application.
- Whitianga cemetery - On hold pending Lotteries application.
- Tangitarori Lane - \$5,000 for trees, staking and pine removal
- Tairua - \$3,500 for tree planting, track work and felling of wattles
- Coromandel - \$5,000 for tree planting at Hauraki Road and Albert Street
- Thames - Rhodes Park - \$17,500 for trees, fencing and a walkway. (Note: this planting will be subject to endorsement by Ngati Maru).

In addition, there are 14 kauri signs (similar to those provided for the Anzac day plantings) which have been purchased at \$2,500 each. A further \$5,000 has been allocated to external staff time in relation to the creation of the website for tree purchase and related communications functions.

Note that in order to develop the bid for \$250,000 from the Government's WW1 Lotteries Grant Fund, it is proposed to spend funds from next year's budget on contracting a grants application specialist to prepare the proposal. This round opens on 1 July - and closes in early September 2015, with a decision announced in early December.

As the WW1 grants funding can usually only be applied for projects which have not yet commenced, the forests honouring Passchendaele (Whitianga cemetery), The Somme (Stella Evered), and the Battle of Messines (Thames) will not begin formal planting until after the results of the funding application are known. Funding will also be sought for a path and a commemorative plinth for Cathedral Cove.

Note that the intention, if practicable, is to get the Gallipoli forest fully planted in the 2015/16 year - particularly with the help of Wintec horticulture students who can reportedly plant 1000 trees in one day. The Purangi site for the Somme will be mapped with a planting plan, but the project will not start until a formal agreement has been reached with the Stella Evered Trust, and after the results of the WW1 Lotteries funding application are known.

## **5 Suggested Resolution(s)**

That the Economic Development Committee:

1. Receives the 'Update on WW1 Memorial Forests' report, dated 18 May 2015.
2. Authorises the expenditure of up to \$105,000 in this financial year (\$65,000 TCDC plus \$40,000 grant) on the following forests:
  - Cathedral Cove - \$30,000 for purchase of 2779 trees, fertiliser, staking, mulching, design of planting plan, and costs associated with Minister's visit (buses for schoolchildren etc)
  - Stella Evered - \$2,000 for design of planting plan. Planting on hold pending WW1 Lotteries application.
  - Whitianga cemetery - On hold pending Lotteries application.
  - Tangitarori Lane - \$5,000 for trees, staking and pine removal

- Tairua - \$3,500 for tree planting, track work and felling of wattles
  - Coromandel - \$5,000 for tree planting at Hauraki Road and Albert Street
  - Thames - Rhodes Park - \$17,500 for trees, fencing and a walkway. (Note: this planting will be subject to endorsement by Ngati Maru).
3. Endorses the contracting of a grants application specialist for the bid for WW1 Lotteries grant funding in the next financial year.

**Attachment A**

<<Insert DW Link or place Attachment here>>

**Attachment B**

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