

## Wairarapa Landscape Study: Update for public

In May the three Wairarapa District Councils and the regional council held the first round of public consultation for the Wairarapa Landscape Study project. The public meetings held in Masterton, Greytown, and Martinborough were very well attended. The enthusiasm and interest shown by participants reflected how much the community values the landscapes of the Wairarapa.

The information from those workshops, along with the technical assessment done for the Landscape Character Description report are being used to identify which areas of the Wairarapa are valued for their scenic, natural, sensory and/or cultural values. This more detailed work has also provided an opportunity to check that the values and the extent of previously identified sites are well defined.

The Landscape Study steering group, which includes representatives from the four councils, two iwi, and Federated Farmers, is now considering a draft list of sites. Many of the sites are held in public ownership and managed by the Department of Conservation or a council, some sites are already protected by covenants, and some are on private land. Before the project progresses any further the steering group is taking time to contact all landowners where a site has been identified in the draft. This consultation and discussion is very important to ensure there is good on-going dialogue between landowners and the steering group.

We will be contacting all relevant landowners during October. The discussions will not simply be a "one off" so it is not certain when we will be ready to move to the next step of further public consultation. However, it is expected that the second round of public consultation to discuss the draft lists of sites will be later in the year.

You can find more information on the Landscape Study at  
<http://cartertondc.co.nz/wailandscape/index.html>

If you have any questions please contact Lucy Brophy in the first instance on 06 370 6300 or [lucyb@mstn.govt.nz](mailto:lucyb@mstn.govt.nz).

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