

Ohariu Valley Rural Community Plan

Executive Summary

The Plan

This plan was developed over middle to late 2001 and is about Ohariu Valley - its environment, its people and its future. It celebrates Ohariu Valley, and outlines the community's vision for the area. It brings together a range of methods which can address the needs of the community - service delivery, environmental management, community and individual decision making. The Community Plan is a non-statutory document, which means that it is guiding only and does not override legislation or other statutory documents of the Wellington City Council, such as its Annual Plan or District Plan.

The Area

The Ohariu Valley Rural Community Plan covers the area spanning all of the land west of the ridgeline between Kau Kau and Wellington City's boundary in the north (just south of Colonial Knob). The southern extent of the Community Plan area is the Takarau Gorge.

Significant Issues

Subdivision was a very topical issue in the community, and residents expressed a range of opinions on whether additional subdivision is desirable. Farmers in the Valley wished to have the ability of some very limited subdivision to assist them in maintaining their farming operations. Others, however, were generally opposed to further subdivision. A few considered the rules regarding subdivision should be made a lot more flexible. In general, however, the community were opposed to widespread "lifestyle block" subdivision.

Traffic safety and roading was a 'burning' issue expressed by residents in the process of obtaining information about the environment and resources of the area. The Community was particularly concerned about speeds on the roads in the area.

Key Proposals

- Provide for a very limited amount of additional subdivision through a change to the District Plan. Beyond this, the current system where subdivision is subject to a very rigorous assessment process should be retained.
- Retain the current District Plan distinction between rural and non-rural activities
- Erect signs at the entrance to Ohariu Valley, and prior to the "Crossroads," to encourage safer driving habits
- Annual Plan funding will be sought for a Gateway sign to be developed in consultation with the community and iwi, to help foster the identity of Ohariu Valley.
- Ongoing discussions will be had with landowners around the issue of public access and riparian management