

Agenda for a Hearing by the General Policies Reserve Management Plan Hearings Panel to hear submissions and make recommendations on the Draft General Policies Reserve Management Plan, held in the Committee Rooms 1 & 2, 15 Galileo Street, Ngaruawahia on **MONDAY, 17 APRIL 2023** commencing at **9:00am.**

Information and recommendations are included in the reports to assist the committee in the decision making process and may not constitute Council's decision or policy until considered by the committee.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON

A Chairperson for the panel was not set by the Infrastructure Committee, therefore the first order of business will be for the panel to appoint a Chairperson.

2. APOLOGIES & LEAVES OF ABSENCE

3. CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA

4. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

5. REPORTS

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GJ Ion
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

To	General Policies Reserve Management Plan Hearings Panel
Report title	Hearing of Submissions on the draft General Policies Reserve Management Plan
Date:	Monday, 17 April 2023.
Report Author:	Razan Serhan and Matthew Horsfield – Reserve Planning Team
Authorised by:	Anthony Averill - Acting Deputy General Manager, Service Delivery

1. Purpose of the report

Te Take moo te puurongo

To present, hear and consider the submissions received for the proposed General Policies Reserve Management Plan.

2. Executive summary

Whakaraapopototanga matua

The [General Policies Reserve Management Plan](#) (RMP) was first adopted in 2015 and sets objectives and policies that apply to all reserves administered by Waikato District Council.

Under the Reserves Act 1977, RMPs are required to be kept under continuous review, with best practise suggesting this be done at least 10 yearly. Although the General Policies RMP is not due for review until 2025 there is a range of new technology, topics and process improvements that have prompted staff to recommend the review to be brought forward.

The General Policies RMP is considered our foundational RMP. It covers every reserve (subjected to the Reserves Act 1977) that Council administers and stands in place for our parks which are not included specifically in another RMP.

Staff have reviewed the full RMP programme and have identified that an update and improvements to the foundational RMP will streamline RMP reviews moving forward.

The creation or review process of an RMP is detailed in the Reserves Act, including two phases of public consultation. Waikato District Council (Council) publicly notified the draft RMP for a two-month consultation period on 12th October 2022. Submissions closed on 12th December in accordance with section 41 (6) (b) of the Reserves Act 1977.

A total of 42 submissions were received. All original submissions with staff comments (Appendix 3) are attached to this report.

3. Staff recommendations

Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi

That the General Policies Reserve Management Plan Hearings Panel:

- a. considers all the submissions received pursuant to section 41(6)(d) of the Reserves Act 1977, the General Policies Reserve Management Plan;**
- b. deliberates on the amendments to the draft plan to reflect the submissions; and**
- c. recommends to the Infrastructure Committee that the draft General Policies Reserve Management Plan, with any amendments, to be adopted.**

4. Background

Koorero whaimaarama

Reserve Management Plans (RMP) are required under the Reserves Act 1977 to provide detail on the use, development, and maintenance of open spaces. It is considered best practice to develop and maintain a General Policies RMP.

In June 2014, Council adopted a position on the process for development of reserve management plans, including the establishment of the General Policies RMP. The General Policies RMP was created and adopted in June 2015.

Since 2015, new technology (i.e. drones, E-cigarettes) have become popular and require additional policy to be considered. Process improvements and a review of the Open Spaces policy portfolio has also been undertaken, recommending the General Policies RMP to be updated with older or revoked standalone policies where appropriate. Reserve Management Plans are created and reviewed through a process outlined in Section 41 of the Reserves Act (Figure 1). The process includes two rounds of public consultation, with the second round seeking submissions on the draft plan.

The hearings panel appointed by the Infrastructure Committee on Wednesday, 1 March 2023 is tasked to consider these submissions and make recommendations to Council on the final RMP.

Council is the ultimate decision maker and makes the final determination as to the incorporation of amendments and robustness of the process.



Figure 1: The process to create or review a Reserve Management Plan, in accordance to the Reserves Act 1977.

5. Discussion and analysis

Taataritanga me ngaa tohutohu

The process of review for the General Policies Reserve Management Plan comprises iwi engagement and two separate stages of community input (outlined below). We are now in Stage 2 – Consultation.

Stage 1 – Early Engagement (Completed in June 2022)

In June 2022, public notices were placed districtwide and on Council's website calling for ideas and suggestions as to what should be included/excluded within a General Policies Reserve Management Plan.

Submissions period was open from 18 May 2022 – 17 June 2022. Options to provide feedback were available online, via email or in person at any Council office or library.

Waikato Tainui have been engaged with through the RMP review process and were invited to provide feedback on the RMP and at the time of writing this report no correspondence has been received, however there will be an opportunity to table any feedback received from Waikato-Tainui at the hearing.

The following questions were asked during early engagement. This feedback was used (where possible) to inform the draft plan.

- What do you like about how your parks are being managed?
- Please tell us what we could do to manage our reserves better?

Council received 52 submissions during early engagement. with 18 submissions being within scope. Responses were received from the public, Iwi/hapuu and key stakeholders such as Fire and Emergency New Zealand, WEL Energy, Waikato Regional Council and Heritage New Zealand.

The responses received are summarised as follows:

- The reserves are generally well managed but parks and recreational areas would benefit from more development and expansion to adapt to population and tourism growth.
- Neighbourhood parks would benefit from increased planting of trees and gardens.
- Consultation with Iwi and mana whenua regarding the development of new policies, planning and management could be improved.
- Information online should be more readily available for walks and public reserves.
- Public access should be considered to facilitate access to lakes via reserves.
- Dual naming utilising both English and Te Reo for reserve naming
- Noted that the importance of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Act 2014 and that heritage should be clearly defined.

The responses received from stakeholders had been used to update the draft RMP for the sections relating to sustainability, relationship with mana whenua, access and parking, reserve naming and cultural heritage. Staff had worked with our consultant Xyst to update the document utilising the feedback and updates to modernize the RMP to address new technologies, revoked policies and alignment with other Council documents.

Workshops were held internally with the Corporate Planning, Open Spaces, Strategic Property and Facilities teams who provided feedback on the draft document. Discussions were held with Waikato Tainui's Project Advisor, incorporating themes of sustainability into the draft document. A workshop was held with Councillors on Wednesday, 3 August 2022 where an overview was provided on the purpose, the main themes and the changes being made to the RMP. Councillors provided feedback on public art, reserve naming and the importance that information be easily accessible to the public.

Stage 2 – Consultation

At its meeting on 1st of August 2022, Council resolved to approve the draft General Policies Reserve Management Plan.

Council received 42 submissions through public consultation throughout the consultation period between 12th October 2022 and 12th December 2022. Public notices were placed in local papers and Council shared information through social media, as well as on the Council website. Of the 42 submissions, 11 submitters requested to attend the hearing. Responses were received from the public, Iwi/hapuu and key stakeholders such as Tainui o Tainui, Auckland Waikato Fish and Game, Tamahere Mangaone Restoration Trust, and Horse Access Advocates Waikato Inc. A collation of submissions and attachments will be included in the agenda for the hearings.

The general themes of the submissions received focused on;

- General support for protection of native flora & fauna, and undertaking restoration programmes.
- Consideration of light operation to be suppressed and controlled depending on hours.
- Support for Council's partnership with mana whenua.
- Opinion on whether reserves should be smoke free reserves and include restrictions on vaping activity.
- That shade be provided on playground and high usage reserves.
- Reference to the preservation of dark skies as darkness has intrinsic significance in people's choice and enjoyment of visiting and living in rural areas.
- Recommendation of including accessibility and play that is equitable and meets the needs of users and communities.

5.1 Options

Ngaa koowhiringa

The following options have been identified.

Option 1: Accept the recommendations in this report and hear submissions on 17 April 2023.

Option 2: Do not accept the recommendations to hear submissions and require staff to undertake further consultation to the proposed General Policies Reserve Management postponing the hearing to a later date.

Staff recommend **option one (1)**

5.2 Financial considerations

Whaiwhakaaro puutea

Minor costs will be incurred through administration tasks associated with the hearings process.

There are no material financial considerations associated with the recommendations of this report.

5.3 Legal considerations

Whaiwhakaaro-aa-ture

Staff confirm that option one complies with the Council's legal and policy requirements, and best practice. Option two would fail to meet Council's engagement policy as there has been interest from the public to make verbal submissions.

Reserve Act 1977 requires the 2-month consultation period and then the requirement to hold a hearing and provide the submitters an opportunity to speak in support of their submission, as per section 41 of the Act.

5.4 Strategy and policy considerations

Whaiwhakaaro whakamaaherehere kaupapa here

The report and recommendations are consistent with the Council's policies, plans and prior decisions. Furthermore, the preferred option adheres to Council's engagement policy for community engagement.

In June 2014, Council adopted a position on the process for development of management plans. Council's Parks Strategy 2014 identifies the various reserve types and involves the production of grouped plans by reserve type and individual plans for key reserves. The General Policies Reserve Management Plan is one of several reserve management plans iwi being prepared covering Council's reserves portfolio.

5.5 Maaori and cultural considerations

Whaiwhakaaro Maaori me oona tikanga

Maaori engagement is essential to the creation or review of all RMPs. Through the RMP review process staff have actively sought input into the RMP from iwi, hapuu and mana whenua where appropriate.

There had been discussions with Waikato Tainui, with the draft RMP considering Waikato Tainui's strategic direction and the Waikato River Vision and Strategy. Schedule E to the Joint Management Agreement with Te Whakakitenga o Waikato (formerly Waikato-Tainui Te Kauhanganui Incorporated) (Waikato Tainui) sets out how Council will engage with Waikato-Tainui in respect of the management plan process.

5.6 Climate response and resilience considerations **Whaiwhakaaro-aa-taiao**

The matters in this report have no known impact on climate change or resilience for the Council.

The Climate Response and Resilience Policy will be given effect to through the review and implementation of all RMPs. A new sustainability section has been included into the draft RMP addressing:

- 1.4.1 Climate Change, Fire Risk and Natural Hazards
- 1.4.2 Biodiversity
- 1.4.3 Sustainable Practices

Principles of sustainability are present throughout the draft RMP, further highlighting the focus of presenting and celebrating our open spaces in environmentally friendly ways.

Public engagement measures will be encouraged to be carried out in an environmentally sustainable manner.

5.7 Risks **Tuuraru**

The overall risk profile is low. The document review process has been clearly scoped and followed procedures outlined in the Reserves Act and further detailed in Promapp. Any submissions with opposing or conflicting recommendations are outlined in the submission summary and will be discussed in deliberations.

6. Significance and engagement assessment **Aromatawai paahekoheko**

6.1 Significance **Te Hiranga**

The decisions and matters of this report are assessed as of high significance, in accordance with the Council's [Significance and Engagement Policy](#).

The following criteria are particularly relevant in determining the level of significance for this matter:

- The proposal or decision will affect a large portion of the community.
 - The likely impact on present and future interests of the community, recognising Maaori Tikanga (culture values) and their relationship to land and water.
 - The proposal affects the level of service of a significant activity.
 - The community interest is likely to be high.
 - The likely consequences are controversial.
 - There is more than one viable option.
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6.2 Engagement

Te Whakatuutakitaki

Highest level of engagement	Inform <input type="checkbox"/>	Consult <input type="checkbox"/>	Involve <input type="checkbox"/>	Collaborate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Empower <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Tick the appropriate box/boxes and specify what it involves by providing a brief explanation of the tools which will be used to engage (refer to the project engagement plan if applicable).</i>	<p>The process to review a reserve management plan requires submissions from public consultation to be considered.</p> <p>Staff have actively engaged key stakeholders for input.</p> <p>All submissions will be considered. A public hearing will assist in the creation of a finalised General Policies RMP document.</p>				

State below which external stakeholders have been or will be engaged with:

Planned	In Progress	Complete	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Internal
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Community Boards/Community Committees
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Waikato-Tainui/Local iwi and hapuu
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affected Communities
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affected Businesses
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Please Specify)

7. Next steps

Ahu whakamua

Upon hearing verbal submissions, the Hearings Panel will then either confirm the draft RMP or make recommendations and/or changes to the draft RMP to ensure it best meets Council's strategic objectives as well as the needs of the community. Once the RMP is finalised, it will be put to Council for adoption.

8. Confirmation of statutory compliance Te Whakatuuturutanga aa-ture

As required by the Local Government Act 2002, staff confirm the following:

The report fits with Council's role and Committee's/Community Board's Terms of Reference and Delegations.	Confirmed
The report contains sufficient information about all reasonably practicable options identified and assessed in terms of their advantages and disadvantages (<i>Section 5.1</i>).	Confirmed
Staff assessment of the level of significance of the issues in the report after consideration of the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy (<i>Section 6.1</i>).	High
The report contains adequate consideration of the views and preferences of affected and interested persons taking account of any proposed or previous community engagement and assessed level of significance (<i>Section 6.2</i>).	Confirmed
The report considers impact on Maaori (<i>Section 5.5</i>)	Confirmed
The report and recommendations are consistent with Council's plans and policies (<i>Section 5.4</i>).	Confirmed
The report and recommendations comply with Council's legal duties and responsibilities (<i>Section 5.3</i>).	Confirmed

9. Attachments Ngaa taapirihanga

Attachment 1 – All Original Submissions

Attachment 2 – Long Submissions

Attachment 3 – Submissions with Staff Commentary

Attachment 4 – Draft General Reserves Management Plan

No.	Date Submitted	Name/Organisation	A hearing will be held in early 2023. Would you like to present your submission to Council at the hearing?	Following the initial consultation on the General Policies Reserve Management Plan, we have made changes and updated the draft. Do you believe the updated draft addresses the vision, objectives and policies appropriately?	Submission point
4766	Oct 12, 2022, 05:17 PM	Alexander stoehr		No	
4767	Oct 13, 2022, 12:39 PM	Bridget Dobbs	Yes	No	<p>Lighting</p> <p>There is no reference to preservation of dark skies. Darkness has intrinsic significance in people's choice and enjoyment of visiting and living in rural areas. Reserves that are in rural locations or small settlements must respect dark skies and not increase overall light emitted by human activity in the area. https://darkskynz.org/.</p> <p>Weed Control / Hazardous Substances</p> <p>Why has all reference to use of hazardous substances been removed from the Management Plan?</p> <p>Chemical weed control should be minimised in the</p>

					<p>interests of a safe environment and fire safety (see below). Mechanical methods of mowing / slashing / pulling should be preferred. Management of sloping banks should always prioritise maintaining vegetative cover to reduce soil erosion by wind and rain causing instability and carrying sediment into waterways.</p> <p>Fire Risk</p> <p>Chemical weed control increases fire risk. Vegetation that is allowed to grow up to a metre high and is then sprayed, creates fine fuels that are easily ignited causing fires with a high rate of spread. A negative feedback loop is created because, after spraying, vegetation that naturally regenerates is similar tall weeds instead of low grasses. Conversely, slashing / mowing encourages low grasses that tend to stay greener and minimise available fuel for fires.</p>
4792	Oct 24, 2022, 12:20 AM	John Burns	Yes	No	<p>No consideration seems to be given to the preservation of dark skies. New Zealand has four of the ten southern hemisphere dark sky sites. We are still lucky do have somewhat dark skies despite our proximity to Auckland.</p> <p>Any lighting should be selected to minimise light pollution to preserve current dark sky levels.</p> <p>Advice can be found at https://darkskynz.org and https://www.darksky.org</p>

4996	Nov 09, 2022, 04:54 PM	Sue-Ellen Annane	no	No	Public spaces should not be smoke and vape free, they are public spaces! Play grounds yes, sports grounds yes, schools yes but not parks and green spaces - barely anyone uses them now as it is!
4997	Nov 09, 2022, 04:54 PM	LisaTaylor	no	Yes	

4998	Nov 09, 2022, 05:22 PM	Chrissy	no	Yes	
4999	Nov 09, 2022, 06:08 PM	Tania	no	Yes	Ban and police drug and alcohol consumption at parks. Smoking ONLY AWAY from the immediate play ground area where children are playing on the equipment, maybe designated smoking areas could be provided.
5000	Nov 09, 2022, 06:30 PM	Tracey Williams	no	Yes	
5001	Nov 09, 2022, 07:23 PM	Jessica Berry	no	Yes	
5002	Nov 09, 2022, 07:48 PM	Amanda furze	no	No	<p>Shouldn't it be up to the individual, re-vaping and smoking at parks and playgrounds.....</p> <p>I smoke and vape but choose to not do it well taking my kids to the park or playground for half an hour or and hour its not hard to go without for that long and it should be up to the individual as to weather they choose not to or choose to smoke and vape well there considering it's an outside and Ventilated area, PLACE SMOKE BINS WITH A AREA FOR SMOKING IF YOU MUST HAVE THE SAY OVER SOMEONE ELSE'S LIFE AND CHOICES because you should just stop attacking smokers and vapers and focus on the crime rate in your district all the robberies and car theft. The ramraids the absolute BLOODY LACK OF POLICE IN HUNTLY AS WELL why not FOCUS ON THAT INSTEAD</p>

					Waikato District Council thats more important than attacking smokers and vapers that at their best all they do is poison themselves so just focus on more important things please instead of pathetic crap. Your very disgusted in you public member.
5003	Nov 09, 2022, 07:59 PM	Matt Tonkin	no	Yes	I think the draft plan adequately addresses all issues.
5004	Nov 09, 2022, 08:05 PM	Courtney Quinn	no	Yes	I support reserves being smoke free and vape free.
5005	Nov 10, 2022, 03:54 AM	Sheryl Matenga	Yes	No	<p>Notice of the Public consultation - Pre-engagement wasn't promoted widely enough.</p> <p>For a community so connected like Raahui Pookeka - Huntly. We are soo disconnected from the Council.</p> <p>Please allow us time to come together to feed in and influence this review because we have aspirations of our own that cannot happen if we continue to have no connection with council.</p> <p>Please include me in these discussions so i can ensure my community is on this journey with us</p>
5010	Nov 10, 2022, 12:25 PM	Kirk Spragg	no	Yes	

5013	Nov 10, 2022, 01:21 PM	Paul Lynch/NZIEH	no	No	<p>Vaping facts</p> <p>Many vapes contain nicotine making them addictive. Vapes can contain the same harmful chemicals found in cleaning products, nail polish remover, weed killer and bug spray.</p> <p>Vapes can leave young people at increased risk of depression and anxiety.</p> <p>The nicotine in 1 vape can = 50 cigarettes.</p> <p>An increasing number of school age teenagers are taking up vaping</p>
5014	Nov 10, 2022, 01:47 PM	Leonie Andrews	no	Yes	
5029	Nov 10, 2022, 03:07 PM		no	No	<p>More important things to worry about. Do not try to control people's action. If they want to smoke at a park then it's their business not yours.</p>

5063	Nov 10, 2022, 08:15 PM	Kirsty Warwood	no	Yes	Mana whenua consultation and naming great. Sustainable great. Playgrounds only (not reserves and parks) should be smoke-free. Playgrounds only (not reserves and parks) should be smoke-free. Shade / sunsmart should also be considered with playgrounds... there is never shelter.
5075	Nov 11, 2022, 07:53 AM	Jackie Graham	no	Yes	
5081	Nov 11, 2022, 09:08 AM	Chandelle Harrison- Marshall	no	No	Smoking in parks should not be made illegal. That is ridiculous. Playgrounds should be banned yes, but parks are for everyone to enjoy and I know many people the smoke and enjoy a park setting to clear their heads and have mental health time. Banning smoking in a public park is not ok.

5086	Nov 11, 2022, 04:58 PM	Caitlin	no	Yes	<p>I agree that smoking and vaping should be banned from public playgrounds and reserves for the health and safety and consideration of children and non smokers/vapers around them. With Ne Zealand's goal of moving towards a smoke free New Zealand in the future I do believe that it may be beneficial towards for children as children are naturally enticed and want to follow what adults do. To many young people have early health issues which start from a young age of involvement.</p> <p>Please do not include my name on my submission.</p>
5111	Nov 15, 2022, 12:09 PM	jan Sedgwick	no	No	<p>Very happy with playgrounds being smoke and vape free. Less so with parks and reserves as they generally have (a) a much larger space and (b) are significantly more difficult to monitor, and (c) generally children are not impacted in larger areas.</p>
5112	Nov 15, 2022, 12:34 PM	Alison Holtom	no	Yes	<p>Smoking / Vaping to be band everywhere, it is an addiction that is easy to quit (speaking from experiance)</p>
5113	Nov 15, 2022, 02:20 PM	Dean Andrews	no	Yes	

5114	Nov 15, 2022, 03:08 PM	Sabine King	no	No	I have a problem with the smoking/vaping at the playgrounds and reserves. As it is outside it should be allowed. Especially at the reserves. I myself am not a smoker but I believe in personal choices. So a person does have the right to smoke or vape but here we are rights will be taken away left right and center. And if there is a smoking/vaping parent watching their children at the playground, they should be allowed as long as it is away from the kids. Why not have smoking areas?
5117	Nov 16, 2022, 06:10 AM	Denise Adamson	no	Yes	Playgrounds should be bale and smoking free. Where suitable tracks should have access for horse riding too. Are there any inclusions for horse riding in the plan?
5118	Nov 16, 2022, 07:35 AM	Brooke Roebeck	no	Yes	No
5120	Nov 16, 2022, 11:01 AM	Roxy Wrigley	no	No	On the subject of smoking and vaping - agree re being smoke and vape free. Suggest adding to the explanation the dangers of secondhand smoking/vaping to the health and wellbeing of those that don't smoke/vape. Many aren't aware that their use affects others and so may be unwilling to accept being told 'no smoking here'.

5150	Nov 19, 2022, 10:17 AM	Murray McGuire	no	Yes	Most certainly agree that all parks and reserves should be BOTH smoke free AND Vaping free. Please make it happen. Thanks.
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5827	Dec 12, 2022, 1:57 PM	John Lawson	Yes	No	<p>page 10 - Objectives - A. To manage reserves in a way that minimises and mitigates the impact of climate change</p> <p>COMMENT – The policies in this section should not only minimise the impact, but also aim for a target to reduce reserves land-use emissions, in line with the Climate Response & Resilience Policy, which says - 9.3 Ensure that low emission, climate-resilient development is adopted as a key tenet into . . . land-use decisions . . . including our . . . plans, urban design and . . . transport planning . . . 9.10 Strive for best practice in response to Climate Change - including . . . reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Ways to do this should be in the Plan, such as removing cattle from reserves, minimising parking and maximising access by active modes.</p> <p>page 14 - The management of the reserves provides opportunities to demonstrate best environmental practice and sustainability to the local community, both in the day-to-day management of reserves and in specific conservation projects. This includes revegetation to mitigate the impacts of climate change and allow for carbon sequestration.</p> <p>COMMENT – mowing costs (and emissions) could be reduced by returning many areas of reserve to bush, though maintaining views.</p> <p>page 17 - car parking that is relevant to the reserve's purpose, location, and likely demand during non-peak use.</p> <p>COMMENT - parking should be minimised and access by active and public transport modes maximised to</p>
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					<p>support Policy 1 above and the Climate Response & Resilience Policy.</p> <p>page 36 - rubbish bins are a reserve user convenience and therefore will be placed at destination reserves or where there is a clearly demonstrated need.</p> <p>COMMENT – recycling should be maximised and recycling bins used, rather than litter bins. Litter bins often overflow, increasing, rather than decreasing litter problems. To minimise litter, maximise recycling and reduce costs, it will often be appropriate to remove all bins – see for example</p> <p>https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/news/2021/7/why-litter-bins-are-not-always-the-answer/ and</p> <p>https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/17102/litter_innovation_fund_summary_report_january_2019.pdf.</p>
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Submission to the General Policies Reserve Management Plan 2022

To: Waikato District Council

From: Alan Greensill

Subject: Waikato District Council General Policies Reserves Management Plan – DRAFT for Public Consultation September 2022 Submission from Alan Greensill

Date: 12 December 2022

Submission:

I, Alan Maling Greensill make this submission to the Waikato District Council in regards to the Councils General Policies Reserves Management Plan – DRAFT for Public Consultation September.

My comments relate mainly to coastal reserves. These are noted in red; items 1 to 17 below in their respective categories as set out in the table of contents:

Purpose of this plan P4**How to use this document:**

“The term “reserve” is used collectively for **coastal beach reserves, esplanades**, that are managed by Council

Item 1:

Council commits to establishing bylaws preventing horse-riding and vehicles on the beaches in particular where erosion is an ongoing issue such as at Te Kopua Raglan.

ITEM 2:

Council discourages horse-riding, motorbikes and other vehicles on beaches because:

- Shellfish beds, anthropoids, isopods and other marine creatures that are exposed to potential damage
- Dune plants need protecting so they can recover and build sand dune areas following erosion events
- Health and safety risks increase when families and dogs are recreating on the beaches.
- Pleasantness, harmony, and cohesion of the natural environment is retained and allows for better use and enjoyment of the coastal space.

ITEM 3:

Prohibit the possession or consumption of alcohol, drugs or substances abuse in a Reserve.

ITEM 4:

Support the rights of Tangata Whenua under the Treaty to uphold and protect their cultural values relating to Tangaroa and the coastal marine area adjacent to reserves.

ITEM 5:

Council provide resources to monitor and prosecute offenders of bylaws.

ITEM 6:

Council should restrict access to beaches suffering from severe coastal erosion cycles to preserve the stability of the coastal reserve land and encourage the public to use other areas for recreation.

Waikato District Council Reserves P4

Council manages approximately 484 local reserves, spanning of 2,177 hectares. This land includes playgrounds, local town reserves, coastal settings, sports grounds and natural bush areas. All Waikato District Council's actively managed reserves are listed in Appendix 1.

ITEM 7:

Inclusion of co-governance with Tangata whenua be included.

Section 1 - Reserve Values:**ITEM 8:****1.1 Relationship with Mana Whenua P8****Object****ive**

- A. To work in partnership with mana whenua to implement the principles of kaitiakitanga (guardianship) of reserves and recognise mana whenua's connection with the land **ADD 'and coastal margins.** .

Policies**ITEM 9 - add:**

3. Recognise and support mana whenua tikanga, kawa, customs to **protect and** access sites and gather **cultural** resources

Section 1.4 – Sustainability:**Policies**

3. Stormwater, flooding, and erosion

ITEM 10:

ADD e. Restrict all direct stormwater discharges into coastal sand dune environments

ITEM 11:

4. Fire management

ADD d. Ensure forested areas have windbreaks and are able to be accessed by Fire and Emergency vehicles.

Objectives**ITEM 12:**

Request 2A: Add new objective; provide reserve land for Tangata Whenua cultural and economical development.

Section 2 – Development of Reserves:**Section 2.4 Furniture P19****Objectives****ITEMS 13 & 14**

- A. provide sufficient reserve furniture to facilitate public use and enjoyment of the outdoor recreational environment
- B. To ensure a coordinated and consistent approach to the design, selection, and placement of all reserve furniture
- C. *Request 2B: Add new objective; ensure that furniture is culturally appropriate and enable Tangata Whenua to participate*
- D. *Limit memorial seats and structures in reserves to those who have lived locally or have historical connection to the place.*

Section 2.5 - Lighting P20**Objective****ITEMS 15:**

Add new objective B: That dark sky areas be preserved where practical to minimize impact on biodiversity and allow sky view of stars eg. Kapehu Whetu (Maori Star Compass)

Section 3 – Use of Reserves

No additions or variations

Section 4 – Authorisations and Approvals:**4.2 Occupation Agreements****Objectives****ITEMS 16 & 17:**

- A. *Add new Objective G: Tangata whenua have historically in some cases been alienated or lost land of cultural significance that have become reserves. Council will work with aggrieved parties to revest such land in the original owners.*
- B. *ADD Objective H Ensure tangata whenua have equitable access to occupation orders.*



Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, gamebirds and their habitats.

Submission by: Auckland Waikato Fish and Game (AWFG)

On the: The Waikato District Council General Policies Reserve Management Plan: Draft for Public Consultation September 2022.

To: The Waikato District Council

By way of: Online and email submission

Presentation to Implementation Committee: I wish to be heard in support of my submission and will consider presenting a joint case at any hearing with other parties presenting on similar matters.

Contact details: Clare Robertson (Environmental Officer, Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council)
David Klee (Game Birds Manager, Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council)
Ben Wilson (Chief Executive, Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council)

Signed by: Ben Wilson

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ben Wilson'.

Date 12th December 2022



Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, gamebirds and their habitats.

A. ROLE OF FISH AND GAME

- 1 Fish and Game Councils are Crown entities established under the Conservation Act 1987 with functions to:

26Q (1) ...manage, maintain, and enhance the sports fish and game resource in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters...

 - (b) to maintain and improve the sports fish and game resource-*
 - (i) by maintaining and improving access; and ...*
 - (iv) by ensuring there are sufficient resources to enforce fishing and hunting season conditions; ...*
 - (c) to promote and educate - ...*
 - (ii) by promoting recreation based on sports fish and game; ...*
 - (e) in relation to planning, -*
 - (i) to represent the interests and aspirations of anglers and hunters in the statutory planning process; and ...*
 - (iii) to prepare sports fish and game management plans in accordance with this Act; and...*
 - (vii) to advocate the interests of the Council, including its interests in habitats...*

- 2 In addition to Fish and Game functions set out above, s7(h) of the Resource Management Act 1991 (“RMA”) states that all persons in achieving the purpose of that Act *“shall have particular regard to ... the protection of the habitat of trout and salmon”*.



Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, gamebirds and their habitats.

B. FISH AND GAME IN THE WAIKATO REGION

- 1 Fish & Game manages, maintains, and enhances sports fish and game birds, and their habitats, in the best long-term interests of present and future generations of anglers and hunters. A not-for-profit organisation, funded through the sale of fishing and hunting licences.
- 2 Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game (AWFG) is also unique among the Fish and Game regions because of the population it services; a large and increasingly urban population (including Auckland, Hamilton, and towns in between) with a relatively low proportion of accessible natural/non-built environments. Many of the reserves adjacent to lakes and rivers in the Waikato District are used extensively by recreational game bird hunters and anglers.
- 3 The experience sought by recreational hunters and anglers in the Waikato District include the wilderness experience, the opportunity to engage in the sports, and the opportunity to obtain fish and game birds for food or enjoyment in a natural/non-built environment, all with minimal restriction. This is a significant recreational and cultural aspect of the region which deserves recognition, particularly given the projected increasing footprint of new settlement and industry.
- 4 The Council has a responsibility as an administering body under the Reserves Act 1977, Section 41, to prepare management plans for the reserves and parks that it manages. The Reserves Act 1977 provides the legal classification system for reserves held under the Act and The Waikato District Council General Policies Reserve Management Plan has reserves grouped into different management categories, which have been developed by the Recreation Aotearoa to include Outdoor adventure, Nature, Recreation, and ecological links; therefore is essential that these categories are managed to ensure their safeguard along with the safeguard of wilderness experience received by recreational hunters and anglers using these reserves.



Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, gamebirds and their habitats.

C. THE WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCIL GENERAL POLICIES RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

C1 GENERAL SUBMISSION

C2. Specific Submissions

Provision	Support/oppose	Reason for Submission	Amendment required
1.4.1 Climate Change, Fire Risk and Natural Hazards pg. 10	Support	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AWFG supports the objectives and policies set out in 1.4.1 Climate Change, Fire Risk and Natural Hazards, with specific support of policies 1, 2 and 3. 2. AWFG supports the Waikato District Council in the management of climate change by focussing on mitigation and adaptation through the Waikato District Council Climate Response and Resilience Action Plan Framework (2020). 3. AWFG acknowledges the Government's long-term strategy for building a climate resilient New Zealand, which sets out the Government's approach to adaptation. It has become a legal requirement for local government to 'have regard to' the national adaptation plan and the emissions reduction plan when preparing or changing regional policy statements, regional plans, and district plans, where these changes aim to ensure RMA planning nationwide is in line with Aotearoa New Zealand's long-term climate strategies and goalsⁱ. 	4. No amendment required.



Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, gamebirds and their habitats.

<p>1.4.2 Biodiversity pg. 13</p>	<p>Support</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AWFG supports objectives A and B set out in 1.4.2 Biodiversity. “To protect, maintain and enhance the long-term viability and resilience of native species, habitats, and ecosystems on reserves” and “to inspire and encourage people to be actively engaged in caring for natural values on reserves”. 2. AWFG supports policies 1 - 5 and acknowledges Te Mana o te Taiao, the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy, and the development of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB) which has objectives, policies and implementation requirements to manage natural and physical resources to maintain indigenous biodiversity under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. No amendment required.
<p>1.4.3 Sustainable Practices Pg. 14</p>	<p>Support with relief</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AWFG supports Objective A and policy 1 “to Ensure that sustainable management practices are taken into account in the design, operation, maintenance and development of the reserves across the Waikato District” with particular support for policy 1 D “Low impact design practises for stormwater management”. 2. AWFG requests the inclusion of additional policies for sustainable practices and land use models regarding the use of reserves adjacent to waterbodies to increase natural habitat and to reduce the amount of sediment and nutrients entering waterways. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. AWFG requests the inclusion of a policy which highlights sustainable practice for reserves adjacent to waterbodies. Policies that include measures such as additional riparian and restoration planting regimes to increase natural habitat and to reduce the amount of sediment and nutrients entering waterways, in line with the 1.4.1 Climate Change, Fire Risk and Natural Hazards and 1.4.2 Biodiversity policies.



Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, gamebirds and their habitats.

<p>2.1 General Reserves Development Reserves pg. 15</p>	<p>Support with relief</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AWFG supports the development of additional reserves which “can protect and enhance the landscape and natural values, assist with activating a reserve and enhance community appreciation and enjoyment of the reserve”. 2. Local council reserves can be important for the protection of biodiversity in urban and rural areas as well as for provision of ecosystems services such as flood mitigation and soil conservation, and provision of amenity and recreation. If planned and managed in a sustainable way, reserves can have numerous, positive, cultural, and ecological values. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. AWFG requests the inclusion of specific policies for the development of reserves for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecosystem services.
<p>4.2.1 -4.2.2 Leases and Licences pgs. 28 -30</p>	<p>Relief sought</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are reserves within the Waikato District which are currently leased or utilised for grazing without any formal agreement. Grazing on council reserves is often poorly managed with a lack of oversight from the Waikato District Council staff. This can lead to adverse effects on adjacent waterways including the degradation of ecosystem health. There is a complete lack of policies in the draft plan to address grazing of council reserves and the adverse effects this can create. 2. Surface run-off from intensive or poorly managed pastoral land (particularly cattle, pigs, and deer) carries a range of contaminants to waterways including nutrients, faecal microbes, and fine sediment. Wet conditions can result in greater run-off volumes and increased sediment, nutrient and pathogen concentrations into waterways. Grazing management to minimise bare ground and treading 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. AWFG requests policies which address the adverse effects of grazing council land on adjacent waterbodies, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies which clearly articulate a move away from current grazing practices and a shift toward more sustainable land use such as cut and carry and/or other measures such as additional riparian and restoration planting regimes to increase natural habitat and reduce the amount of sediment and nutrients entering waterways.



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		<p>damage can decrease the risk of pollutants reaching waterways from run-off. In any landscape, critical source areas (often near waterways) that contribute sediment can be identified. Careful grazing management and attenuation measures (e.g., riparian buffer strips,) can be targeted to these areas for greatest effectⁱⁱ.</p> <p>3. Under the Resource Management (Stock Exclusion) Regulations 2020, stock must be excluded and kept at least 3 meters from the edge of the bed of a lake or a river with a bed greater than 1 m wide at any point on the parcel of land and stock must be excluded from natural wetlandsⁱⁱⁱ. The Government has also introduced the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater 2020 (NES-FW) as part of its Essential Freshwater package which includes regulations to better control the impacts of intensive Winter Grazing^{iv}.</p> <p>4. Schedule C of Plan Change 1 requires all waterbodies on land with a slope of up to 15 degrees, or where the slope is >15 degrees and farming on the adjoining land exceeds 18 stock units/ha, to be fenced to exclude cattle, horses, deer, and pigs^v.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policies should take into account Stock Exclusion, NES-FW and PC1 regulations to ensure that at a minimum, grazing practices on council reserves are fully compliant. • The polices should prescribe some timeframes by which these minimum standards will be achieved. • Given that many reserves are apparently used without any formal lease or agreement by adjoining landowners, consideration should be given to developing a separate policy section to deal with non-permitted use of council reserves that focusses on compliance with the relevant legislation.
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Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, gamebirds and their habitats.

ⁱ environment.govt.nz/publications/aotearoa-new-zealands-first-national-adaptation-plan/#national-adaptation-plan-summary

ⁱⁱ Waikato Regional Council Technical Report - Diffuse sediment in Waikato waterways – sources, practices for reduction, and policy options

ⁱⁱⁱ environment.govt.nz/acts-and-regulations/regulations/stock-exclusion-regulations/

^{iv} environment.govt.nz/acts-and-regulations/freshwater-implementation-guidance/intensive-winter-grazing/

^v waikatoregion.govt.nz/assets/WRC/WRC-2019/Volume-2-Proposed-Waikato-Regional-Plan-Change-1-Decisions-version.pdf



Submission to Waikato District Council on General Policies Reserve Management Plan

Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa – the Outdoor Access Commission

Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa – The Outdoor Access Commission is the Crown agent responsible for providing leadership on outdoor access issues. Our role is to advise on and advocate for free, certain, enduring and practical access to the outdoors.

We administer a national strategy on outdoor access, including tracks and trails. We map outdoor access, provide information to the public, oversee a code of responsible conduct in the outdoors, help resolve access issues and negotiate new access.

Summary of key points

In Herenga ā Nuku's submission on the Reserve Management Plan, we:

- encourage a view of landscape connectivity that regards reserves as recreational assets as well as green space corridors for active transport
- encourage Waikato District Council (WDC) to identify what role the Reserves Management plan plays in meeting WDC Climate Response and Resilience Action Plan Framework November 2020.

Key considerations

In compiling our submission, we considered the following:

- The importance of reserves in providing recreational spaces and green corridors for connectivity.
- Significant population growth predicted for the Waikato District Council area and how population growth and housing densification affects the availability and quality of outdoor public access within the Waikato District.

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herengaanuku.govt.nz

- The evolving uses for outdoor spaces and how people recreate. This includes a decline in organised sport and an increase in self-directed physical activity.
- Distinctions between transport and exercise are blurring as more people choose to use active transport modes.

Local Government NZ's position statement on climate change, which identified three key areas requiring action. The first point, actions to reduce emissions (mitigation), is particularly relevant.

Herenga ā Nuku's role as the Crown agency responsible for advocacy on public outdoor access and the statutory underpinnings of public access in Aotearoa. Our work with groups and individuals in the region with outdoor access interests and aspirations

Our submission

With respect to the above considerations, we offer the following submission points:

Feedback on the General Policies Reserve Management Plan

Note: where parts of the draft strategy are quoted, the phrases appear in italics

Page 10 1.4.1 Climate Change, Fire Risk and Natural Hazards

Herenga ā Nuku notes that it is WDC policy to minimise and mitigate the impact of climate change and encourages WDC to consider how the use and future planning of reserves can contribute to reducing carbon emissions from transport. This could be achieved by promoting and enabling active transport to and within reserves, creating new active transport routes (especially green corridors) and providing bike parking facilities within reserves.

Page 13 1.4.2 Biodiversity Policies

2. Any plantings undertaken on reserves will:

Herenga ā Nuku encourages WDC to consider the impact of plantings on paths and trails created within a reserve to ensure that plantings facilitate access along trails within reserves.

Page 14 1.4.3 Sustainable Practices

Herenga ā Nuku supports the sustainable practices approach taken in this plan and is heartened to note the recognition of the need for bike parking facilities.

Council can also encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport by including infrastructure such as bike parking into reserve designs. This technology will evolve over time and Council needs to

keep abreast of new innovations in this space.

Herenga ā Nuku encourages WDC to look beyond just creating bike parking to actively incorporating bike/walking/bridal paths within reserves and utilising reserves and other linking public spaces to create active transport corridors.

Page 15 2.1 General Reserve Development

Herenga ā Nuku encourages WDC to consider adding to the policies:

Identifying how reserves can encourage the community to be physically active **and** recognising the opportunities for green space corridors for active transport

Objective A.

Development is aligned with the reserve's purpose and the communities' needs without significant or ongoing adverse effects on other reserve users, adjoining property owners or the reserve itself

Reserves are established and managed for an array of public benefits. Adjoining property owners are already considered in that they are members of the public. We propose that this objective is amended to remove "adjoining property owners" - their rights as neighbours are prescribed in existing appropriate legislation.

Page 16 2.2 Access and Parking Objectives

- A. To provide safe, logical, and adequate access to and through reserves and car parks for vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians whilst minimising impact on users, facilities, amenity values, and the general character of the reserve

Herenga ā Nuku supports providing adequate access to and through reserves for vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians.

Herenga ā Nuku encourages WDC to add 'supporting active transport' as a reserves management objective. By actively seeking opportunities for active transport, reserve management helps the council to meet climate change objectives.

Herenga ā Nuku encourages WDC to allow the widest possible array of active recreational pursuits within reserves.

Page 23 2.8 Signage

Objectives A.

To provide sufficient signs to facilitate public use, heritage and site appreciation, and enjoyment of the outdoor recreational environment.

Herenga ā Nuku encourages WDC to ensure that all reserves have some signage that enables the public to identify that the area is a public space (reserve). The absence of signs means some people don't use public space while others treat it as unauthorised private space.

Concluding comments

We support WDC's intention in the General Policies Reserve Management Plan, particularly the recognition of sustainable modes of transport within reserves. We thank you for the opportunity to comment on the plan.

We submit that the plan would benefit from referencing the WDC Climate Response and Resilience Action Plan Framework so that the benefits and actions to facilitate active transport are written into the plan.

The contact person regarding this submission is:

Felicity Brough

Regional Field Advisor – Waikato | Te Kaitohutohu ā-Rohe – Waikato

Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa – The Outdoor Access Commission

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Submission from Predator Free Tamahere on Waikato District Council's Draft General Policies Reserve Management Plan

Introduction

Predator Free Tamahere (PFT) was established in June 2022 by a keen bunch of locals who were compelled to do something about the devastating impact which rats, mice, possums and stoats have on the native ecosystems. PFT's vision is to see the Tamahere gullies and backyards become predator free and full of thriving wildlife.

As a result of efforts by the Tamahere community, over 200 traps have been installed since June 2022. This has resulted in 178 possums and 181 fewer rats in local reserves and gullies.

PFT acknowledges Ngāti Hauā as mana whenua in Tamahere. As part of our work, we are committed to building enduring, trusting relationship with Māori. We know that building relationships and working together on issues of mutual interest is the key to achieving our vision.

We are also committed to working positively and collaboratively with Waikato District Council and the community. We are at the beginning of our journey, and we look forward to building positive working relationships with Waikato District Council staff and elected members alike.

Scope of our submission

PFT thanks Waikato District Council for the opportunity to make a submission on the Draft General Policies Reserve Management Plan (RMP). Given PFT's focus on animal pests, we have largely limited our submission to commenting on pest management and biodiversity related issues.

Section One of our submission provides general commentary on the issues we have identified as relevant to PFT. Section Two provides specific recommendations of changes to the RMP to reflect this commentary.

We look forward to speaking in support of our submission.

Regards

Rod Berry

Predator Free Tamahere Chair

Section One – general commentary

Strengthen pest management focus in the RMP

PFT is of the view that pest management is of vital importance in protecting existing native vegetation – and any future ecological restoration – throughout the Waikato District. In particular, PFT supports Section 1.4.2 (Biodiversity) and is pleased to see that pest animal management is a central tenet of improving biodiversity across the Waikato District. PFT would like to see pest management policies strengthened in relation to plantings on reserves. Detail of suggested changes are outlined in Section Two.

Strengthen native vegetation and ecological corridors and connections focus in the RMP

Large tracts of predominantly native vegetation play an important role in providing habitat for a range of native flora and fauna. Improving ecological corridors and connections throughout the Waikato District is also vital for the health and wellbeing of people. Additionally, connected resilient ecosystems will increasingly become a central policy tool in climate change mitigation and adaptation. PFT is of the view that the ecological function of a reserves network across the Waikato District can be strengthened in order to deliver on a range of social, environmental and cultural outcomes.

PFT would like to see a greater focus on increasing the areas of native vegetation across the Waikato District and on improving their ecological strength, connectedness and resiliency. PFT sees that the significant gully systems in Tamahere represent an ideal opportunity to contribute to such outcomes.

Section Two – Specific recommendations to the draft RMP

Section	Support or oppose	Suggested change (underline is an addition, strikethrough is a deletion)	Rationale
Section 1.4.1 Climate change, fire risk and natural hazards, Policy 1.2	Support, with changes	2. Avoid and mitigate the impact of climate change and coastal erosion by: a. Undertaking <u>indigenous</u> restoration, <u>pest management</u> and planting programmes to increase ecological resiliency	Prioritising native vegetation and ensuring that pest management is part of the climate change response will ensure that the plantings are resilient over time.
Section 1.4.2 Biodiversity, Objective A	Support, with changes	To protect, maintain and enhance the long term viability and resilience of native species, habitats and ecosystems <u>across the Waikato District</u> on reserves.	Amendments will demonstrate the role which the reserves network has on improving ecological resilience and connections across the Waikato District.
Section 1.4.2 Biodiversity, Policy 1(a)	Support, with changes	Maintain restoration and ecological enhancement programmes on the district's reserves, and <u>giving give</u> priority to: a. Deliver B biodiversity programmes with a focus on pest animal and plan management as required by the Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan (and any subsequent updated plan) <u>as resources allow</u>	If this is a priority – as opposed to as resources allow – it provides clearer direction for Council to prioritise funding for pest management through annual plan and long-term plan processes.
Section 1.4.2 Biodiversity, Policy 2	Addition of new policy	<u>Policy 2 (f): Incorporate animal pest management to ensure ongoing resilience of plantings on reserves</u>	Pest management is of vital importance in protecting existing native vegetation – and any future ecological restoration – throughout the Waikato District.
Section 1.4.2 Biodiversity, Policy 5	Support, in part	Where practicable foster the resilience of native species, habitats, and ecosystems to the adverse effects of unpredictable events, such as climate change or new incursions of pests or pathogens, through an adaptive management response, on a case by case basis	Suggested wording change strengthens the policy and ensures that a consistent policy approach is taken across the Waikato District.

RW & MT BARNABY LIMITED

LAND RIGHTS ANALYSTS

AND

ACCREDITED SUPPLIERS TO LAND INFORMATION NZ

7 December 2022

Waikato District Council
Private Bag 544
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CONSULTATION on GENERAL POLICIES RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

PRELIMINARY

1. Council has invited feedback on a review of the current General Policies Reserve Management Plan as adopted by Council on 8 June 2015. This submission makes no comment on management policies but addresses one aspect only, ie that pertaining to the status of the parcels covered by a plan.
2. Status covers the legal description, the area, and in the case of any land held by a public body, the legislation under which that body is bound to administer that holding. A statement on status will be supported by references to documentation evidencing the accuracy of the statement.
3. Most of Council's reserves, as contained in management plans, comprise only a legal description and an aerial photo. Although the word 'classified' is frequently used it is unsupported with evidence of documentation. A broad examination of Council's nine reserve management plans [as listed on the Council website] shows that, while most holdings have been set apart as reserves, few have been classified.
4. While land can be reserved and passed to a council, and made subject to the Reserves Act 1977, classification is a subsequent and specific requirement of the Reserves Act [s.16] to be undertaken by a council once that council holds jurisdiction.
5. Without evidence of classification, the validity of a management plan [s.41(1) **Management Plans**] could be questioned if an aggrieved member of the public saw fit to challenge Council over some aspect of management. Section 41(3), Reserves Act is clear *The management plan shall provide for [certain things] for the purposes for which it is classified ...* and for that, Council will have [should have] undertaken classification in terms of s.16 and the delegations to Council given by the Minister of Conservation on 12 June 2013.

THE DETAIL

The *Reserves Act Guide* [Local Government New Zealand 1999] while overdue for revision, still contains sound direction and guidance for most day-to-day reserve administration.

... 2.

To emphasise the relevance of the classification process, the following extracts have been selected from the **Reserves Act Guide**.

Chapter 6 Management Planning for Reserves

- **What are the Purposes of Management Plans?**

The Act requires (s.41(3)) that a management plan provide for and ensure ... compliance with ... the principles set out in ss. 17 to 23 ... apply to a reserve of the relevant classification ... for the purpose for which each reserve is classified.

- **Can the Council Prepare a Plan for Unclassified Reserves?**

The council can prepare an advance draft of a plan covering unclassified reserves ... provided this does not pre-empt the classification process. The council cannot however, invite public submissions on the draft plan until all the reserves which it covers are classified and the draft plan is consistent with those classifications (s.43(3)).

- **Can the Council Include in a Management Plan Land which is not a Reserve?**

Any land of the council which is not subject to the Reserves Act 1977 can be included in a multi-reserve plan if the council wishes. It will need to be distinguished from the reserves and appropriately provided for. (Council cannot be bound by the terms of the Act for those areas.)

- **Does the Council Have to Keep a Plan Under Continuous Review?**

Generally, plans should be reviewed at a minimum of ten-year intervals and need not involve a complete rewriting.

Chapter 8 Classification of Reserves

- **What is Classification?**

Classification is a mandatory process ... a matter that is a crucial element in management planning.

- **Is There a Deadline for Classifying Reserves?**

The Act does not specify a deadline for classifying reserves which do not receive automatic classification. Certain land transactions cannot ... be undertaken before a reserve is classified [including] public notification of a draft management plan.

THE CONCERN

The draft revision for the General Policies Reserve Management Plan, notes on page 4 that the plan “provides generic policies that will provide consistent management practices across all the reserves administered by Council.” However, the plan does not address the combined legislative requirements of s.16 [**Classification**] and s.41 [**Management Plans**] of the Reserves Act 1977, and the current diverse range of parcel status is detrimental to consistency.

THE CURRENT SITUATION

A broad examination of the nine reserve management plans shows in many instances

- Reservation has been assumed to be classification.
- There is no evidence to support reservation or classification.
- There is no evidence to support statements of jurisdiction, ie ownership, vesting, appointment to control and manage.

An Example

The **Huntly Domain and Lake Hakanoa Reserve Management Plan** which was approved by Council on 28 August 2012, should be the first of the nine plans to be reviewed. The plan lists 18 parcels – four for the Domain and 14 surrounding and including Lake Hakanoa.

... 3.

Huntly Domain

Four parcels making up Huntly Domain are “owned and administered” by Waikato District Council and “mainly classified as Recreation Reserve”. However, there is no detail evidencing reservation, classification or administration [jurisdiction]. *Landonline* shows no evidence of District Council title to three parcels but Council ownership exists by way of statute. The fourth parcel has a title in the name of the Huntly Borough Council but the land is not reserve.

Lake Hakanoa [and environs]

Fourteen parcels making up Lake Hakanoa and environs are given a “Legal Description and Classification” but again there is no evidence of reservation, classification or administration [jurisdiction].

As an **annexure** [6pp] to this submission, we have listed Council data as set out in that management plan and alongside compiled information from *Landonline*. The compiled information has not been verified completely, but is proffered as the type of information which should be given in any reserve management plan, as evidence of Council’s interest and authority for any given parcel, so any lease or licence or easement granted by Council is issued in terms of that authority.

Of the 18 parcels comprising the **Huntly Domain and Lake Hakanoa Reserve Management Plan**, only six are classified reserves. The diverse range of parcel status revealed by this analysis, highlights the purpose of classification as a preliminary undertaking. Council is determining at the outset, the basis on which a management plan for given parcels should be prepared.

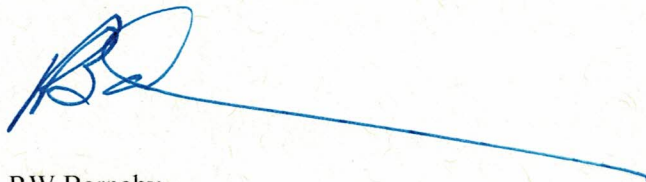
RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended the **GENERAL POLICIES RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

- Acknowledge all reserve parcels will be classified before management planning.
- Require good title to all parcels be secured as a prerequisite to management plan preparation.

We do not seek to address Council on issues raised here because they are primarily matters-of-fact. However, we will answer any questions Council may have.

Yours faithfully



RW Barnaby
for
RW & MT BARNABY LIMITED

Huntly Domain and Lake Hakanoa Reserve Management Plan [RMP]

Huntly Domain [Listed order from RMP]	Compiled Information / Notes
<p>A Lot 3 DP 23824, SAC/1022, Fee Simple, 0.3731 ha [This is the fourth of four parcels as presented in the existing RMP but the order of presentation has been chronologically reversed.]</p>	<p>Lot 3, DP 23824 of 3731 sq.m in Record of Title SA10C/1022 in the name of Huntly Borough Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject to the Land Transfer Act 2017. • Not reserve. <p>NOTE #1 NOTE #2</p>
<p>B Allotment 776, Taupiri Parish, 3.7440 ha [Third of four parcels]</p>	<p>Allotment 776, Taupiri Parish of 3.7440 ha No Record of Title.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reserved by the Crown and declared part of Huntly Athletic Park Domain to be administered by the Domain Board by NZ Gazette [NZG] 1975 p.1295 [Registered as Instrument H842977]? • Classified recreation reserve by NZG 1978 p.2721 [H202829]? <p>NOTE #3</p>
<p>C Pt Allotment 540, Taupiri Parish, 0.7337 ha [Second of four parcels]</p>	<p>Part Allotment 540, Taupiri Parish of 7337 sq.m. No Record of Title.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reserved by the Crown by NZG 1930 p.3624 [No registration]? • Declared part Huntly Athletic Park Domain under the administration of a Huntly Athletic Park Domain Board by NZG 1931 p.133 [No registration]? • Classified recreation reserve by NZG 1978 p.2721 [H202829]? <p>NOTE #3</p>
<p>D Pt Allotment 50, Taupiri Parish, 4.6662 ha [First of four parcels]</p>	<p>Part Allotment 50, Taupiri Parish of 4.6662 ha. No Record of Title.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reserved by the Crown by NZ Gazette 19XX p. XXXX [No registration]? • Declared Huntly Athletic Park Domain by NZG 1929 p.3221 [No registration]? • Classified recreation reserve by NZG 1978 p.2721 [H202829]? <p>NOTE #3 NOTE #4 NOTE #5</p>
<p>Parcels adjoining Lake Hakanoa</p> <p>E* Lot 14 DP 28935, SA1D/178 SA722/254, Fee Simple, 0.3541ha (no reserve classification)</p>	<p>Lot 14, DP 28953 of 3541 sq.m in Record of Title SA722/254 in the name of Huntly Borough Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject to the Land Transfer Act 2017. • Not reserve. <p>NOTE #1 NOTE #2</p>

<p>F* Lot 1 DPS 9833, SA5D/1375, Fee simple, 0.2251 ha (no reserve classification)</p> <p>G* Lot 1 DPS 88393, SA69A/712, Fee Simple, 1.0572 ha (camping ground)</p> <p>* <i>Lake Hakanoa Motor Caravan Park</i></p>	<p>Lot 1, DPS 9833 of 2251 sq.m in Record of Title SA5D/1375 in the name of Huntly Borough Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject to the Land Transfer Act 2017. • Not reserve. <p>NOTE #1 NOTE #2</p> <p>Lot 1, DPS 88393 of 1.0572 ha in Record of Title SA69A/712 in the name of Waikato District Council as a camping ground subject to the Public Works Act 1981.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land acquired for a camping ground under the Public Works Act 1981 by Huntly Borough Council by NZG 1985 p.3179 [H607964]. • Not reserve. <p>NOTE #6</p>
<p>H Lot 1 DPS 4738, SA1447/14, Fee Simple, 0.9333 ha (no reserve classification)</p> <p>I Lot 30 DPS 22337, SA21D/104, Fee Simple, 0.0664 ha (Local Purpose Reserve – Utility)</p>	<p>Lot 1, DPS 4738 of 9333 sq.m in Record of Title SA1447/14 in the name of Huntly Borough Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject to the Land Transfer Act 2017. • Not reserve. No legal access. <p>NOTE #1 NOTE #2</p> <p>Lot 30, DPS 22337 of 664 sq.m in Record of Title SA21D/104 in the name of Huntly Borough Council as utility reserve, subject to the Reserves and Domains Act 1953.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connects Parcel H to Lakeview Terrace. • Classification outstanding under s.16, Reserves Act 1977. • Both Parcel H and Parcel I should be held under the same status and titles amalgamated. <p>NOTE #1</p>
<p>J Lot 5 DPS 26700, 0.2441 ha (Recreation Reserve)</p>	<p>Lot 5, DPS 26700 of 2441 sq.m in the name of Huntly Borough Council as recreation reserve, subject to the Reserves Act 1977, in Cancelled Record of Title SA7D/805.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An isolated parcel off Kimihia Road with no legal access, created on subdivision in 1979 under the Municipal Corporations Act 1954, physically without connection to other Lake Hakanoa reserves or the lakeside walkway. • Title required. • Classified recreation reserve under s.16(11), Reserves Act 1977.

<p>K Lot 5 DPS 60305, 0.9310 ha (Local Purpose Reserve – Wildlife Refuge / Conservation)</p> <p>L Lot 4 DPS 60305, 0.7430 ha (Local Purpose Reserve – Wildlife Refuge / Conservation)</p>	<p>) Lots 5 and 4, DPS 26700 of 9310 sq.m and 7430 sq.m respectively, in the name of Waikato District Council as local purpose reserves (wildlife refuge / conservation) subject to the Reserves Act 1977, in Canceled Record of Title SA32C/980.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two isolated parcels off Rayner Road with no legal access, created on subdivision in 1991 under the Local Government Act 1974. • Title required. • Classification outstanding under s.16(2A)(f), Reserves Act 1977.
<p>M Lot 26 DPS 31988, 0.1687 ha (Recreation Reserve)</p>	<p>Lot 26, DPS 31988 of 1687 sq.m in the name of Huntly Borough Council as local purpose reserve (recreation) subject to the Reserves Act 1977, in Canceled Record of Title SA28A/902.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off Emmanuel Place, created on subdivision in 1982 under the Local Government Act 1974. • Title required. • Classification outstanding under s.16(2A)(f), Reserves Act 1977.
<p>N Lot 8 DPS 34401, 0.1427 ha (Recreation Reserve)</p>	<p>Lot 8, DPS 34401 of 1427 sq.m in the name of Huntly Borough Council as recreation reserve subject to the Reserves Act 1977, in Canceled Record of Title SA30D/585.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjoins Parcel M. Created on subdivision in 1984 under the Local Government Act 1974. • Title required. • Classification outstanding under s.16(2A)(f), Reserves Act 1977.
<p>O Section 1 SO 372300, 307897, Fee Simple, 0.2350 ha (Amenity Purposes)</p>	<p>Section 1, SO 372300 of 2350 sq.m in Record of Title 307897 in the name of Waikato District Council for amenity purposes subject to the Public Works Act 1981.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land acquired for amenity purposes under the Public Works Act 1981 by Waikato District Council by NZG 2006 p.2976 [GN 7008785.1]. • Not reserve. NOTE #6

<p>P Lot 13 DP 385730, 343369, Fee Simple, 5.5617 ha (Local Purpose Reserve)</p>	<p>Lot 13, DP 385730 of 5.5617 ha in Record of Title 343369 in the name of Waikato District Council as a local purpose (wetland management) reserve, subject to the Reserves Act 1977.</p> <p>• Land acquired on subdivision in 2008 under the Resource Management Act 1991</p> <p>• Classification outstanding under s.16(2A)(g), Reserves Act 1977.</p>
<p>P1</p> <p>P2</p> <p>P3</p> <p>Q Allotment 541 Taupiri Parish, 5.3621 ha, (Government Purpose Reserve – Wildlife Refuge)</p>	<p>Lot 39 DP 23986 of 865 sq.m in Record of Title SA892/150 in the name of Waikato District Council.</p> <p>Lot 40, DP 23986 of 2464 sq.m in Record of Title 304121 in the name of Waikato District Council as recreation reserve subject to the Reserves Act 1977.</p> <p>Part Allotment 463, Taupiri Parish of 271 sq.m in Record of Title 304122 in the name of Waikato District Council as drainage reserve subject to the Reserves Act 1977.</p> <p>These three parcels front Rayner Road and physically form of part of low-lying Parcel P. Should the three parcels be included in any management plan review?</p> <p>• Originally part of Huntly Athletic Park Domain the appointment of the Huntly Borough Council was revoked by NZG 1981 p. 1757.</p> <p>• Classified Government purpose (wildlife refuge) reserve by NZG 1981 p.2523 [H367847] but notice revoked and replaced by NZG 1987 p. 1432 because of incorrect legal description in 1981 notice.</p> <p>• Minister of Internal Affairs [now Minister of Conservation] appointed to control and manage by NZG 1986 p.1900 [H658012]. NOTE #7</p>

Lake Hakanoa

Compiled Information / Notes

<p>R Allotment 850 Taupiri Parish, 67.6450 ha (Government Purpose Reserve – Wildlife Refuge)</p>	<p>Allotment 850, Taupiri Parish of 67.6450 ha.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set apart as a Government purpose (wildlife refuge) reserve subject to the Reserves Act 1977 by NZG 1983 p.4169 [not registered?]. • Minister of Internal Affairs [now Minister of Conservation] appointed to control and manage by NZG 1984 p.1177 [not registered]. • Classified as a Government purpose (wildlife refuge) reserve by NZG 1984 p.1790 [H529142]. NOTE #7
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E&OE

NOTE #1 Transmission to Waikato District Council [WDC] required exercising s.90, Land Transfer Act 2017.

NOTE #2 WDC should declare recreation reserve exercising s.14, Reserves Act 1977, and amalgamate with adjoining titles as appropriate.

NOTE #3 Vested on classification in Huntly Borough Council by operation of s.26A, RA77 and vested in WDC by NZG 1989 p.2460. Title should be called for and amalgamated with adjoining parcels where appropriate.

NOTE #4 When / how did administration of the Huntly Athletic Park Domain Board pass to the Huntly Town Board / Huntly Borough Council.

NOTE #5 When / how did Huntly Athletic Park Domain become Huntly Domain?

NOTE #6 WDC could declare the parcel to be reserve, subject to the Reserves Act 1977, exercising s.52(4), Public Works Act 1981 and amalgamate with adjoining titles as appropriate.

NOTE #7 *Landonline* shows Allotments 541 and 850 are Crown owned and managed reserves. The current reserves management plan notes “day-to-day management and administration was transferred to the Waikato District Council in 2004” but no evidence has been found to support that statement.

SPECIAL NOTE (i)

Findings above do not address mineral ownership where some parcels have separate mineral titles.

SPECIAL NOTE (ii)

Excluding the Domain, the Motor Caravan Park and the Lake, analysis of the ten parcels around the Lake show that, without undertaking an examination of status and deciding on classification ahead of planning, Council has parcels held –

- unencumbered [without benefit of reserve status],

- as utility reserve,
- as recreation reserve,
- as wildlife refuge / conservation reserve,
- for amenity purposes [subject to the Public Works Act 1981].

The diverse range of parcel status established by this analysis, highlights the purpose of classification as a preliminary undertaking. Council is determining at the outset, the basis on which a management plan for given parcels should be prepared. The Domain is recognised primarily as a recreation reserve but how does Council want to hold the Caravan Park? And how does Council want to hold and manage the parcels surrounding the Lake bearing in mind the Lake and Allotment 541 are Crown owned?



**SPORT WAIKATO'S SUBMISSION IN RESPONSE TO THE
WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Draft General Policies Reserve Management Plan

Submission

12 December 2022

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1. ABOUT SPORT WAIKATO

Sport Waikato is one of 14 Regional Sports Trusts in Aotearoa/New Zealand, responsible for supporting Central Government and Sport New Zealand’s focus on getting more New Zealanders physically active. There is widespread and global evidence that physical activity enhances people’s physical, social, emotional, and mental health, education outcomes and general wellbeing - and makes for a more cohesive society.

Founded in 1986, Sport Waikato’s vision is to have **“everyone active”** so as to achieve a healthy, vibrant, physically active region through play, active recreation and sport.

OUR APPROACH

Sport Waikato is guided by Moving Waikato – the region’s unified strategy for physical activity through play, active recreation and sport. The strategy seeks to prioritise partnerships with other key agencies to influence key outcomes, including to increase the provision of opportunities for both participation and quality experiences for the people of the region. We believe that by working together we can achieve the ultimate goal of 75% of all Waikato adults and young people meeting the physical activity guidelines by 2030



2. OUR SUBMISSION ON YOUR DRAFT GENERAL POLICIES RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

In our submission, we wish to comment on the following:

- **Thank you:** On behalf of the people of the Waikato District, Sport Waikato thank you for your ongoing contribution to play, active recreation and sport. District and city councils are key enablers of physical activity, and your effort and investment are noted and sincerely appreciated.
- We note that this Draft General Policy Reserve Management Plan is additional to the Sports Park Reserve Management Plan (8th June 2015). It is important to note, however, that spontaneous play, active recreation and sport often occurs frequently outside of dedicated sporting locations and therefore, we encourage Council to consider how the General Policy Reserve Management Plan can make provisions for and enable play, active recreation and sport to occur.

Reserve Values

- We encourage consideration of how all spaces, places and infrastructure could be playable - not just the specific play/sport equipment, facilities, and grounds, but all assets and the network that connects them. As such, utilities, landscaping, planting and vegetation, car parking, walkways/cycleways, fencing, bollards, stormwater and mowing patterns, for example, are all potential ways for play activation to occur in ways that will further enhance reserves. Walking and cycling networks can themselves be playable (i.e., fun shapes and designs), rather than just a means for connecting playable spaces, for example.
- Where civil works take place, we encourage commitments be made to enhance play amenity through reinstatement following civil works.
- Management of stormwater creates challenges but also creates opportunities for how play can be incorporated into infrastructure to create new and innovative playable assets. A view where opportunities are safe as necessary, rather than as safe as possible can help to create dual-purpose spaces that invite engagement.



Development of Reserves

- We encourage Council to consider reviewing the use of the term 'passive transport', and the accompanying example of cycling. Active transport is any self-propelled mode of transportation (such as walking, jogging, cycling, or skating) to get from one place to another. Connection, access, parking,

and storage for a range of multi-modal transport options are important considerations to ensure accessible and inclusive spaces and places.

- We are pleased to see that the concept of hubbing is represented within the plan but would like to emphasise that this moves beyond a cluster of buildings. Sport NZ define a Sport & Recreation Hub as:

“A partnership where organisations collaborate and share expertise, programmes, facilities and/or services strategically, sometimes via an independently governed group, within a defined geographical area, to provide sustainable, quality sport and recreation experiences”

Many hubs proactively arise from a shared desire to broaden their offer, collaborate with resources and logistics, to better provide for their communities and are not always the result of reacting to adverse circumstances. Successful hubs we have seen blend their offer between commercial and community activities incorporating sport, health, education, youth, arts and creative offers throughout the day, and across the week.

- It is important to acknowledge that in some cases a level of commercial activity is necessary in order to provide an attractive service, maintain and develop services and infrastructure, and sustain the ongoing ability of a hub to meet the needs of the community.
- We recommend that council takes an early and active role in the management of lighting. The Waikato District has an identified shortfall of playing hours across its sports field network. Lighting of physical activity spaces is an excellent way to increase the number of playable hours of that space, without the need to purchase land or develop elsewhere. We have seen examples of arrangements where different groups control access to fields, clubhouses, lights etc, and can sometimes lead to restricted and reduced opportunities. Best practice arrangements could cover; clubhouse footprint leases, partnership agreements that provide for installation and maintenance of lighting infrastructure, and council fairly and equitably managing bookings for spaces and lighting.
- We welcome the inclusion of play and play-on-the-way within the General Policy, including avoiding duplication, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), universal design, and natural play, but encourage a broader vision of play and play spaces.
 - In particular, we recommend that play provision for adults is considered and included. Play is for everyone, and not limited only to children. Play can happen anywhere - not just in playgrounds, and its benefits can be enjoyed by all ages and stages. It is spontaneous, fun, and personally directed with no predetermined outcome. Provision of opportunities should be equitable and meet the needs of users and communities. This includes attending to all aspects of accessibility, diversity and inclusion such as gender, sexuality, culture, ability, and ethnicity (among others). While we acknowledge the implied spirit of universal design, attention should be given to going beyond the business as usual of basketball courts and skateparks to consider additional areas and examples valued by girls – such as performance spaces, musical and creative play, and access to opportunities not habitually dominated by boys. The UK group ‘Make Space for Girls’ suggests some ideas for consideration.

Use of Reserves

- We recommend recognising parks as not just for respite. Such spaces should ‘attract’ people through physical activity opportunities, restorative effects, and positive social interaction, and in turn, provide the opportunity for individuals and communities to become positively ‘attached’ to spaces that support wellbeing.

Authorisations and Approvals

- Alongside specific play, active recreation and sport recommendations, the Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan (WRASP) provides a framework to ensure that any play, recreation and sport infrastructure built on reserve land supports the approach of network optimisation and connectivity of spaces, as opposed to a sole focus of minimisation. The WRASP also talks to future planning and decision-making criteria for sustainable, collaborative, integrated, inclusive and flexible facilities that meet needs for sport, but also for active recreation pursuits (e.g., walking, recreational cycling and

- horse riding).
- We recommend a commitment to maintain or increase the overall amount of reserve space in the network. For example, where open reserve space is developed, equivalent space is acquired or opened.

3. SPORT WAIKATO CONTACTS

Should the Council wish to seek further information or clarification on this submission, please contact:

Matthew Cooper

Chief Executive

M: 027 545 0005

E: matthewc@sportwaikato.org.nz

Amy Marfell

General Manager – Regional Leadership

M: 027 350 2606

E: amym@sportwaikato.org.nz

**General Policies Reserve Management Plan Submission form
(please provide feedback by 12 December 2022)**

Name: Nicola Laboyrie.

Organisation (if applicable): Horse Access Advocates Waikato Inc.

Postal address: 110 Mangakino Road, Raglan

Postcode: 3295

Email: ncbuckton@gmail.com

A hearing will be held in early 2023. Would you like to present your submission to Council at the hearing?: No

If yes, please provide a contact number: N/A

Following the initial consultation on the General Policies Reserve Management Plan, we have made changes and updated the draft. Do you believe the updated draft addresses the vision, objectives and policies appropriately? Yes / No

Do you have any further comments or feedback?

Yes, in the main the draft document addresses the vision, objectives and policies. However we note there is NO reference to horse riders as a stakeholder group. “ *Section 2.2 Access and Parking, Objective A: Vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians.*” We request that ‘horse-riders’ be included as a stakeholder group.

Horse riders do not need buildings or special infrastructure. Where trails can be designated for horse riding we simply require parking areas that are suitable for horse trailers and trucks. Trails can be on grass or other easy footing surfaces with signage to indicate the route.

Equestrian sport has many benefits for engaging our youth by providing an outdoor and animal connection. (*Section 2.6 Play facilities pg 21/22*).

The Waikato District is poorly served for public facilities/areas for horse riders. This is astounding considering the economic importance of the equestrian industry to this region and the significant number of horse enthusiasts in the Waikato. This lack of public facilities makes horse riding a less accessible sport for lower income families.

Due to the temperate climate and availability of grazing land, keeping a horse is possible for lower income families in the Waikato. It is the lack of public places to ride that is the significant deterrent. The roads are no longer suitable for hacking due to many factors such as changes to the verges, lack of driver etiquette to passing horses on the road and increased speed limits of vehicles.

We at HAAWI wish to positively engage with our Council to address this imbalance and provide public access for horse riders in the Waikato.



TAINUI Ō TAINUI
 “ NGUNGURU TE PO, NGUNGURU TE AO

**86 Riria Kereopa Memorial Drive
 Whaingaroa/Raglan 3297**

**Submission to the Waikato District Council (WDC) General Policies Reserve
 Management Plan 2022**

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1. My name is Angeline Elizabeth Ngahina Greensill. I present this submission on the Draft General Policies Reserve Management Plan on behalf of the Tainui Hapu Environmental Management Committee, and Tainui o Tainui as several Council coastal beach reserves and esplanades are located within the rohe of Tainui o Tainui ki Whāingaroa.
- 1.2. Tainui o Tainui is comprised of 12 hapu who have land and sea interests north, within and south of Whaingaroa moana. One of its purposes is to “encourage, engage and consult with the Waikato Regional Council, the Waikato District Council, Ngā Hapū o te Uru Customary Fisheries Forum, the Department of Conservation and other statutory authorities as appropriate, to establish policies, processes and procedures and make decisions which will preserve and enhance the special character of the rohe moana o Tainui hapu o Tainui waka landscape, heritage and resources for the benefit of future generations”.
- 1.3. Tainui support the purpose of the plan and understands the relationship of this plan with other Council documents and legislation.
- 1.4. Page 5. Tainui requests that if Reserves are within a hapu rohe, that Council consider co-management arrangement with local hapu .
2. Page 7 makes reference to **“Bylaws and standalone policies taking precedence over the General Policies RMP”** and avoiding duplication of content. Please begin the process to reinstate the Reserves and Beaches Bylaw soon as possible as without rules, beaches, dune plants biota and other marine creatures adjacent to the reserves will continue to be destroyed by vehicles, horses and sulkies.
- 2.1. Page 8. Tainui agree Te Tiriti o Waitangi is an important document signed by tupuna and the Crown. We support the reference to Te Tiriti in the plan and would welcome the opportunity to have a Joint Management Agreement and MOU drawn up with Council to recognise and maintain a relationship with council as envisaged by both parties when it was initially signed.

3. Reserve Values Page 9 **Objective A** Add ‘and coastal margins’. Tainui support policies 1 to 4.
4. Relationships with Volunteers and Partnerships. Tainui are not just mana whenua, we are also volunteers who carry out voluntary work including eradicating pests (animals and weeds) and planting fore/ back dunes and riverbanks. The majority of funding however has gone to other community organisations.
5. Tainui support 1.3. Cultural and Historic Heritage
6. Tainui support 1.4. Sustainability and the Objectives and Policies of climate change, Fire risk and natural hazards with the following amendments;
 - 6.1.1. Stormwater, flooding, and erosion policy

ADD (e) Restrict all direct stormwater discharges into coastal sand dune environments.

Stormwater from the land has been observed as contributing to weakening of banks leading to coastal erosion of foreshore lands fronting reserves.
 - 6.1.2 Fire Management

ADD (d) Ensure forested areas have windbreaks and are able to be accessed by Fire and Emergency vehicles.
 - 6.1.3 Tainui support 1.4.2. Biodiversity Objectives and Policies. ; 1.4.3 Sustainable practices
7. Development of Reserves Policy d and e.
 - 7.1. **ADD** Close gates to Reserves at night to minimise opportunities for vandalism of Reserves . Tainui support the use of design to deter or prevent crime in Reserves.
 - 7.2. Tainui support 2.2. Access and Parking. **ADD** h. Where there is an erosion event which has destroyed an access to a beach, Council should restrict access to that area and provide signage to encourage people to use another less compromised accessway.
8. 2.4 Furniture - Donated commemorative assets should be restricted to local whanau or those who have a connection to a place.

Lighting - **ADD new objective B:** That dark sky areas be preserved where practical to minimize impact on biodiversity and allow sky view of stars eg. Kapehu Whetu (Maori Star Compass)
9. Tainui support Objectives and policies 2.6. Play facilities, 2.7 Public Art and 2.8 signage.
10. Tainui support 3. Use of Reserves Objectives and Policies.
11. 4. Authorisations and Approvals. Accept. Occupation agreements , leases or licences
 - 11.1. **ADD** Ensure that mana whenua and local business have priority over organisations who are from outside the district.

12. 5. Reserve Management - Support policy against the scattering of ashes in reserves.

12.1. Waste – Embark on an education programme to discourage reserve users from littering.

13. 5.4 Naming of Reserves Tainui supports this section.

I am happy to speak to the points raised in this submission

Angeline Greensill

Environmental Spokesperson

Tainui Hapu

Chairperson

Tainui o Tainui

Submission to the General Policies Reserve Management Plan 2022

To: Waikato District Council

From: Leanne Steel/Kaitoke Kaitiake under the umbrella group Whaingaroa Weedbusters

Date: Dec 03, 2022, 05:12 PM

A hearing will be held in early 2023. Would you like to present your submission to Council at the hearing?

Yes

Following the initial consultation on the General Policies Reserve Management Plan, we have made changes and updated the draft. Do you believe the updated draft addresses the the vision, objectives and policies appropriately?

Yes

Thank you for the opportunity to feedback. The interest of our group, and therefore the feedback, lies primarily in regard to the biodiversity of Reserves (1.4.2) and the relationship between council and volunteers (1.2). We work voluntarily in Whaingaroa Raglan, primarily on the Kaitoke walkway but will remove pest plants alongside anyone locally who requests assistance to do so and have been active since 2020 and in particular on Kaitoke since early last year.

We are in broad agreement with the updated policy, as per the above particular clauses, as you have stated your key objectives and polices are to "encourage and facilitate volunteering activities... resulting in mutual benefits..." and or order to do so the council will "create and maintain relationships with volunteer groups...".

We hope that you will demonstrate your aspiration with us. Council staff known we exist but have not demonstrated willingness to foster the relationship.

Our volunteer group would welcome a relationship with council. We would appreciate the opportunity for regular contact to discuss and plan activities, and coordinate with council contractors so we can ensure we aren't creating problems for anyone and are providing a cost effective solution for council to better manage the biodiversity of Kaitoke Walkway. At the moment the status quo is that we write or leave messages with council staff and sometimes someone might respond but often not. We are grateful for the recently purchased skip for appropriate weed waste removal. This was facilitated via Xtreme Zero Waste and paid for by a grant from WRC as we understand it. I might be wrong - who knows, no-one speaks to us. We would very much appreciate a closer working relationship with council and we think it would work well for council too. We have robust health and safety process and are happy to abide by the health and safety requirements.

Section 1.4.2 Biodiversity.

We are in whole-hearted agreement with councils stated aim "to protect, maintain and enhance

the long term viability and resilience of native species, habitats and ecosystems or reserves" which includes a strategy to do so by fostering enduring relationships with key partners - volunteer groups.

We also note however the policy 1.a under 1.4.2 states council will "deliver biodiversity programmes... as required by the Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan".

We are aware the WRC RPMP no longer includes many known pest plants because historic management means the horse has bolted and most of these invasive species have become ubiquitous and therefore very expensive to control. Removing the problem from the plan and pretending it doesn't exist effectively lets both councils off the hook. Not actively managing pest plants has changed the nature and character of the landscape and will continue to do so thereby threatening the survival of not only native flora but also native fauna. Raglan has a unique natural character and is also a key visitor destination. Kaitoke walkway is an enviable asset being 2.5km long, in the centre of town, easily accessible and very well used by locals and visitors alike. Money has recently been spent on surfacing, drainage and amenities - seating and signage. But it is hugely degraded by pest plants and even threatens the integrity of Karioi Maunga. I'm not over-emphasising this point, it was explained to me by WRC Biosecurity pest plant officer Hamish Hodgson and your own ecologist will agree. Hamish is particularly concerned at the quantity present of 3 species - Climbing asparagus, Ginger and Tradescantia. These pest plant species live happily in shade and are known to undermine native forest to the point of destruction if left unchecked. There are biocontrols for Tradescantia but not at present for the other two species. They require active management.

This will be at considerable expense and will require on going management. We ask that council puts into effect your Reserves Management Plan and works more closely with our volunteer group of permanent residents who are aware of the need for a long term commitment and have demonstrated willingness and some expertise despite limited assistance for a massive job.

The purpose of our groups activities is to truly restore and enrich the ecosystem to as much as possible a healthy functioning native bush environment - as you aspire to in your stated objective. We think council would get excellent value for money if you participated better with us and helped us achieve your goal by supporting our volunteer workforce.

Our project recently received national recognition when we were selected from other applicants from across NZ to receive funds from Forest and Bird and RNZ for our conservation project. We hope you will see fit to recognise the potential of both this environment and this working relationship.

Thank you for reading.

No.	Name/Organisation	A hearing will be held in early 2023. Would you like to present your submission to Council at the hearing?	Following the initial consultation on the General Policies Reserve Management Plan, we have made changes and updated the draft. Do you believe the updated draft addresses the the vision, objectives and policies appropriately?	Submission point	Topic	Plan Section	In scope	Staff comments
4766	Alexander stoehr		No		N/A	N/A		
4767	Bridget Dobbs	Yes	No	Lighting There is no reference to preservation of dark skies. Darkness has intrinsic significance in people's choice and enjoyment of visiting and living in rural areas. Reserves that are in rural locations or small settlements must respect dark skies and not increase overall light emitted by human activity in the area. https://darkskynz.org/	Lighting	Section 2.5	In scope	Accept - Noting support for night time lighting which may also affect flora and fauna, as well as hinder night sky viewing.

4767	Bridget Dobbs	Yes	No	<p>Weed Control / Hazardous Substances</p> <p>Why has all reference to use of hazardous substances been removed from the Management Plan?</p> <p>Chemical weed control should be minimised in the interests of a safe environment and fire safety (see below). Mechanical methods of mowing / slashing / pulling should be preferred. Management of sloping banks should always prioritise maintaining vegetative cover to reduce soil erosion by wind and rain causing instability and carrying sediment into waterways.</p>	Weed management and Hazardous substances	Section 1.4.1	In scope	Accept - Consideration of weed control methods other than chemical control is considered in the plan - e.g. biocontrol
4767	Bridget Dobbs	Yes	No	<p>Fire Risk</p> <p>Chemical weed control increases fire risk. Vegetation that is allowed to grow up to a metre high and is then sprayed, creates fine fuels that are easily ignited causing fires with a high rate of spread. A negative feedback loop is created because, after spraying, vegetation that naturally regenerates is similar tall weeds instead of low grasses. Conversely, slashing / mowing encourages low grasses that tend to stay greener and minimise available fuel for fires.</p>	Fire risk	Section 1.4.1	In scope	Accept in part – Noting the identification of slashed areas would be helpful so we could potentially plan to plant the areas out removing the need for frequent maintenance. The cost of weed eating however is more labour intensive but is often only used in areas that are not suitable for mowing.

4792	John Burns	Yes	No	No consideration seems to be given to the preservation of dark skies. New Zealand has four of the ten southern hemisphere dark sky sites. We are still lucky do have somewhat dark skies despite our proximity to Auckland. Any lighting should be selected to minimise light pollution to preserve current dark sky levels. Advice can be found at https://darkskynz.org and https://www.darksky.org	Lighting	Section 2.5	In scope	Accept - Review wording of policy to include "lighting should be selected to minimise light pollution"
4996	Sue-Ellen Annane	no	No	Public spaces should not be smoke and vape free, they are public spaces! Play grounds yes, sports grounds yes, schools yes but not parks and green spaces - barely anyone uses them now as it is!	Smoking	Section 5.3	In scope	Decline - parks are community spaces and need to be smoke free to encourage health and wellbeing. Smoking and vaping can occur outside of park boundaries
4997	LisaTaylor	no	Yes		N/A	N/A	Out of scope	
4998	Chrissy	no	Yes		N/A	N/A	Out of scope	
4999	Tania	no	Yes	Ban and police drug and alcohol consumption at parks.	N/A	N/A	Out of scope	

4999	Tania	no	Yes	Smoking ONLY AWAY from the immediate play ground area where children are playing on the equipment, maybe designated smoking areas could be provided.	Smoking	Section 5.3	In scope	Decline - parks are community spaces and need to be smoke free to encourage health and wellbeing. Smoking and vaping can occur outside of park boundaries
5000	Tracey Williams	no	Yes		N/A	N/A	Out of scope	
5001	Jessica Berry	no	Yes		N/A	N/A	Out of scope	

5002	Amanda furze	no	No	<p>Shouldn't it be up to the individual, re-vaping and smoking at parks and playgrounds.....I smoke and vape but choose to not do it well taking my kids to the park or playground for half an hour or an hour its not hard to go without for that long and it should be up to the individual as to whether they choose not to or choose to smoke and vape well there considering it's an outside and ventilated area, PLACE SMOKE BINS WITH AN AREA FOR SMOKING IF YOU MUST HAVE THE SAY OVER SOMEONE ELSE'S LIFE AND CHOICES because you should just stop attacking smokers and vapers and focus on the crime rate in your district all the robberies and car theft. The council lacks the absolute BLOODY LACK OF POLICE IN HUNTERVILLE AS WELL why not FOCUS ON THAT INSTEAD Waikato District Council that's more important than attacking smokers and vapers that at their best all they do is poison themselves so just focus on more important things please instead of pathetic crap. You're very disgusted in your public member.</p>	Smoking	Section 5.3	In scope	<p>Decline - parks are community spaces and need to be smoke free to encourage health and wellbeing. Smoking and vaping can occur outside of park boundaries</p>
5003	Matt Tonkin	no	Yes	<p>I think the draft plan adequately addresses all issues.</p>	N/A	N/A	Out of scope	

5004	Courtney Quinn	no	Yes	I support reserves being smoke free and vape free.	Smoking	Section 5.3	In scope	Accept - no change to plan.
5005	Sheryl Matenga	Yes	No	<p>Notice of the Public consultation - Pre-engagement wasn't promoted widely enough.</p> <p>For a community so connected like Raahui Pookeka - Huntly. We are soo disconnected from the Council.</p> <p>Please allow us time to come together to feed in and influence this review because we have aspirations of our own that cannot happen if we continue to have no connection with council.</p> <p>Please include me in these discussions so i can ensure my community is on this journey with us</p>	N/A	N/A	Out of scope	
5010	Kirk Spragg	no	Yes		N/A	N/A	Out of scope	

5013	Paul Lynch/NZIEH	no	No	Vaping facts Many vapes contain nicotine making them addictive. Vapes can contain the same harmful chemicals found in cleaning products, nail polish remover, weed killer and bug spray. Vapes can leave young people at increased risk of depression and anxiety. The nicotine in 1 vape can = 50 cigarettes. An increasing number of school age teenagers are taking up vaping	N/A	N/A	Out of scope	
5014	Leonie Andrews	no	Yes		N/A	N/A	Out of scope	
5029		no	No	More important things to worry about. Do not try to control people's action. If they want to smoke at a park then it's their business not yours.	Smoking	Section 5.3	In scope	Decline - parks are community spaces and need to be smoke free to encourage health and wellbeing. Smoking and vaping can occur outside of park boundaries
5063	Kirsty Warwood	no	Yes	Mana whenua consultation and naming great.	Relationship with mana whenua	Section 1.1	In scope	Accept - no change to plan.

	Kirsty Warwood	no	Yes	Playgrounds only (not reserves and parks) should be smoke-free	Public Health and safety	5.3	In scope	Decline - parks are community spaces and need to be smoke free to encourage health and wellbeing. Smoking and vaping can occur outside of park boundaries
	Kirsty Warwood	no	Yes	Shade / sunsmart should also be considered with playgrounds... there is never shelter.	Public health and safety	5.3	In scope	Accept - Noting to ensure that designing public spaces is done by people with expertise, and avoid co-design that results in problems, that then need to be rectified.
	Kirsty Warwood	no	Yes	Sustainable great	Sustainability	1.4.3	In scope	Accept - no change to plan
5075	Jackie Graham	no	Yes		N/A	N/A	Out of scope	

5081	Chandelle Harrison-Marshall	no	No	Smoking in parks should not be made illegal. That is ridiculous. Playgrounds should be banned yes, but parks are for everyone to enjoy and I know many people the smoke and enjoy a park setting to clear their heads and have mental health time. Banning smoking in a public park is not ok.	Smoking	Section 5.3	In scope	Decline - parks are community spaces and need to be smoke free to encourage health and wellbeing. Smoking and vaping can occur outside of park boundaries
5086	Caitlin	no	Yes	I agree that smoking and vaping should be banned from public playgrounds and reserves for the health and safety and consideration of children and non smokers/vapers around them. With Ne Zealands goal of moving towards a smoke free New Zealand in the future I do believe that it may be beneficial towards for children as children are naturally enticed and want to follow what adults do. To many young people have early health issues which start from a young age of involvement. Please do not include my name on my submission.	Smoking	Section 5.3	In scope	Accept - no change to plan.

5111	jan Sedgwick	no	No	Very happy with playgrounds being smoke and vape free. Less so with parks and reserves as they generally have (a) a much larger space and (b) are significantly more difficult to monitor, and (c) generally children are not impacted in larger areas.	Smoking	Section 5.3	In scope	Decline - parks are community spaces and need to be smoke free to encourage health and wellbeing. Smoking and vaping can occur outside of park boundaries
5112	Alison Holtom	no	Yes	Smoking / Vaping to be band everywhere, it is an addiction that is easy to quit (speaking from experience)	Smoking	Section 5.3	In scope	Accept - no change to plan.
5113	Dean Andrews	no	Yes		N/A	N/A		
5114	Sabine King	no	No	I have a problem with the smoking/vaping at the playgrounds and reserves. As it is outside it should be allowed. Especially at the reserves. I myself am not a smoker but I believe in personal choices. So a person does have the right to smoke or vape but here we are rights will be taken away left right and center. And if there is a smoking/vaping parent watching their children at the playground, they should be allowed as long as it is away from the kids. Why not have smoking areas?	Smoking	Section 5.3	In scope	Accept in part - for discussion - note valid point raised as need for smoking areas but are these valid in parks and reserves where we are encouraging health and wellbeing.
5117	Denise Adamson	no	Yes	Playgrounds should be bale and smoking free	Smoking	Section 5.3	In scope	Accept - no change to plan.

5117	Denise Adamson	no	Yes	Where suitable tracks should have access for horse riding too. Are there any inclusions for horse riding in the plan?	Horse riding?	N/A	Out of scope	
5118	Brooke Roebeck	no	Yes	No			Out of scope	
5120	Roxy Wrigley	no	No	On the subject of smoking and vaping - agree re being smoke and vape free. Suggest adding to the explanation the dangers of secondhand smoking/vaping to the health and wellbeing of those that don't smoke/vape. Many aren't aware that their use affects others and so may be unwilling to accept being told 'no smoking here'.	Smoking	Section 5.3	In scope	Accept - Add to the explanation the dangers of second hand smoking/vaping to the health and wellbeing of those that don't smoke/vape.
5150	Murray McGuire	no	Yes	Most certainly agree that all parks and reserves should be BOTH smoke free AND Vaping free. Please make it happen. Thanks.	Smoking	Section 5.3	In scope	Accept - no change to plan.

5807	Leanne Steel/Kaitoke Kaitiake under the umbrella group Whaingaroa Weedbusters	Yes	Yes	Thank you for the opportunity to feedback. The interest of our group, and therefore the feedback, lies primarily in regard to the biodiversity of Reserves (1.4.2) and the relationship between council and volunteers (1.2). We work voluntarily in Whaingaroa Raglan, primarily on the Kaitoke walkway but will remove pest plants alongside anyone locally who requests assistance to do so and have been active since 2020 and in particular on Kaitoke since early last year.	Relationships with Volunteers and Partnerships	Section 1.2	In scope	Accept - no change to plan.
5807	Leanne Steel/Kaitoke Kaitiake under the umbrella group Whaingaroa Weedbusters	Yes	Yes	We are in broad agreement with the updated policy, as per the above particular clauses, as you have stated your key objectives and policies are to "encourage and facilitate volunteering activities... resulting in mutual benefits..." and in order to do so the council will "create and maintain relationships with volunteer groups...". We hope that you will demonstrate your aspiration with us. Council staff know we exist but have not demonstrated willingness to foster the relationship.	Relationships with Volunteers and Partnerships	Section 1.2	In scope	Accept - no change to plan. *This volunteer process is managed by the events*

5807	Leanne Steel/Kaitoke Kaitiake under the umbrella group Whaingaroa Weedbusters	Yes	Yes	<p>Our volunteer group would welcome a relationship with council. We would appreciate the opportunity for regular contact to discuss and plan activities, and coordinate with council contractors so we can ensure we aren't creating problems for anyone and are providing a cost effective solution for council to better manage the biodiversity of Kaitoke Walkway. At the moment the status quo is that we write or leave messages with council staff and sometimes someone might respond but often not. We are grateful for the recently purchased skip for appropriate weed waste removal. This was facilitated via Xtreme Zero Waste and paid for by a grant from WRC as we understand it. I might be wrong - who knows, no-one speaks to us. We would very much appreciate a closer working relationship with council and we think it would work well for council too. We have robust health and safety process and are happy to abide by the health and safety requirements.</p>	Relationships with Volunteers and Partnerships	Section 1.4	Out of scope	
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5807	Leanne Steel/Kaitoke Kaitiake under the umbrella group Whaingaroa Weedbusters	Yes	Yes	<p>Section 1.4.2 Biodiversity.</p> <p>We are in whole-hearted agreement with councils stated aim "to protect, maintain and enhance the long term viability and resilience of native species, habitats and ecosystems or reserves" which includes a strategy to do so by fostering enduring relationships with key partners - volunteer groups.</p> <p>We also note however the policy 1.a under 1.4.2 states council will "deliver biodiversity programmes... as required by the Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan".</p>	Biodiversity	Section 1.4.2	In scope	Accept in part - Noting habitat restoration and pest control is undertaken by WDC as resources allow.
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5807	Leanne Steel/Kaitoke Kaitiake under the umbrella group Whaingaroa Weedbusters	Yes	Yes	<p>We are aware the WRC RPMP no longer includes many known pest plants because historic management means the horse has bolted and most of these invasive species have become ubiquitous and therefore very expensive to control. Removing the problem from the plan and pretending it doesn't exist effectively lets both councils off the hook. Not actively managing pest plants has changed the nature and character of the landscape and will continue to do so thereby threatening the survival of not only native flora but also native fauna. Raglan has a unique natural character and is also a key visitor destination. Kaitoke walkway is an enviable asset being 2.5km long, in the centre of town, easily accessible and very well used by locals and visitors alike. Money has recently been spent on surfacing, drainage and amenities - seating and signage. But it is hugely degraded by pest plants and even threatens the integrity of Karioi Maunga. I'm not over-emphasising this point, it was explained to me by WRC Biosecurity pest plant officer Hamish Hodgson and your own ecologist will agree. Hamish is particularly concerned at the quantity present of 3 species - Climbing</p>	Biodiversity	Section 1.4.3	Out of scope	
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				<p>asparagus, Ginger and Tradescantia. These pest plant species live happily in shade and are known to undermine native forest to the point of destruction if left unchecked. There are biocontrols for Tradescantia but not at present for the other two species. They require active management.</p>				
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5807	Leanne Steel/Kaitoke Kaitiake under the umbrella group Whaingaroa Weedbusters	Yes	Yes	This will be at considerable expense and will require on going management. We ask that council puts into effect your Reserves Management Plan and works more closely with our volunteer group of permanent residents who are aware of the need for a long term commitment and have demonstrated willingness and some expertise despite limited assistance for a massive job.	Biodiversity	Section 1.4.4	Out of scope	
5807	Leanne Steel/Kaitoke Kaitiake under the umbrella group Whaingaroa Weedbusters	Yes	Yes	The purpose of our groups activities is to truly restore and enrich the ecosystem to as much as possible a healthy functioning native bush environment - as you aspire to in your stated objective. We think council would get excellent value for money if you participated better with us and helped us achieve your goal by supporting our volunteer workforce.	Biodiversity	Section 1.4.5	Out of scope	

5807	Leanne Steel/Kaitoke Kaitiake under the umbrella group Whaingaroa Weedbusters	Yes	Yes	Our project recently received national recognition when we were selected from other applicants from across NZ to receive funds from Forest and Bird and RNZ for our conservation project. We hope you will see fit to recognise the potential of both this environment and this working relationship. Thank you for reading.	Biodiversity	Section 1.4.6	Out of scope	
5822	Richard Barnaby/RW & MT Barnaby Limited	no	No	CONSULTATION on GENERAL POLICIES RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN Preliminary 1. Council has invited feedback on a review of the current General Policies Reserve Management Plan as adopted by Council on 8 June 2015. This submission makes no comment on management policies but addresses one aspect only, ie that pertaining to the status of the parcels covered by a plan.	Reserve classification	Appendix 1	In scope	Accept - noting that Council is working on identifying the actual land status of all parcels and that this process will be completed in due course by Council officers

5822	Richard Barnaby/RW & MT Barnaby Limited	no	No	<p>2. Status covers the legal description, the area, and in the case of any land held by a public body, the legislation under which that body is bound to administer that holding. A statement on status will be supported by references to documentation evidencing the accuracy of the statement.</p> <p>3. Most of Council's reserves, as contained in management plans, comprise only a legal description and an aerial photo. Although the word 'classified' is frequently used it is unsupported with evidence of documentation. A broad examination of Council's nine reserve management plans [as listed on the Council website] shows that, while most holdings have been set apart as reserves, few have been classified.</p> <p>4. While land can be reserved and passed to a council, and made subject to the Reserves Act 1977, classification is a subsequent and specific requirement of the Reserves Act [s.16] to be undertaken by a council once that council holds jurisdiction.</p>	Reserve classification	Background of GP RMP	In scope	Accept - noting that Council is working on identifying the actual land status of all parcels and that this process will be completed in due course by Council officers
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5822	Richard Barnaby/RW & MT Barnaby Limited	no	No	5. Without evidence of classification, the validity of management plan [s.41(1) Management Plans] could be questioned if an aggrieved member of the public saw fit to challenge Council over some aspect of management. Section 41(3), Reserves Act is clear. The management plan shall provide for [certain things] for the purposes for which it is classified... and for that, Council will have [should have] undertaken classification in terms of s.16 and the delegations to Council given by the Minister of Conservation on 12 June 2013.	Reserve classification	background of GP RMP	In scope	Accept - Council will need to address this legal requirement prior to deciding whether to adopt the final plan.
5822	Richard Barnaby/RW & MT Barnaby Limited	no	No	THE DETAIL The reserves Act Guide [Local Government New Zealand 1999] while overdue for revision still contains sound direction and guidance for most day-to-day reserve administration. To emphasise the relevance of the classification process, the following <u>extracts</u> have been selected from the Reserves Act Guide .	Reserve classification	background of GP RMP	In scope	Accept - no change to plan.
5822	Richard Barnaby/RW & MT Barnaby Limited	no	No	Chapter 6 <i>Management Planning for Reserves</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the Purposes of the Management Plans? <i>The Act required (s.41(3)) that a management plan provide for and ensure ... compliance with ... the principles set out in ss. 17 to 23 ...</i>	Reserve classification	background of GP RMP	In scope	Accept - no change to plan.

				<i>apply to reserve of the relevant classification ... for the purpose for which each reserve is classified.</i>				
5822	Richard Barnaby/RW & MT Barnaby Limited	no	No	<p>• Can the Council Prepare a Plan for Unclassified Reserves?</p> <p><i>The council can prepare an advance draft of plan covering unclassified reserves ... provided this does not pre-empt the classification process. The council cannot however, invite public submissions on the draft plan until all the reserves which it covers are classified and the draft plan is consistent with those classifications (s.43 (3)).</i></p>	Reserve classification	background of GP RMP	In scope	Accept - Council will need to address this legal requirement prior to deciding whether to adopt the final plan.
5822	Richard Barnaby/RW & MT Barnaby Limited	no	No	<p>• Can the Council Include in a Management Plan Land which is not a reserve?</p> <p><i>Any land of the council which is not subject to the Reserves Act 1977 can be included in a multi-reserve plan if the council wishes. It will need to be distinguished from the reserves and appropriately provided for. (Council cannot be bound by the terms of the Act for those areas.)</i></p>	Reserve classification	background of GP RMP	In scope	Accept - Land may also be held under the LGA for recreation purposes, until such time that it may then be amended and classified under the Reserves Act.

5822	Richard Barnaby/RW & MT Barnaby Limited	no	No	<p>• Does the Council Have to Keep a Plan Under Continuous Review? <i>Generally, plans should be reviewed at a minimum of ten-year intervals and need not involve a complete rewriting</i></p>	Reserve classification	background of GP RMP	In scope	Accept - no change to plan.
5822	Richard Barnaby/RW & MT Barnaby Limited	no	No	<p>Chapter 8 <i>Classification of Reserves</i> • What is Classification? <i>Is a mandatory process ... a matter that is a crucial element in management planning.</i></p>	Reserve classification	background of GP RMP	In scope	Accept - no change to plan.
5822	Richard Barnaby/RW & MT Barnaby Limited	no	No	<p>• Is There a Deadline for Classifying Reserves? <i>The Act does not specify a deadline for classifying reserves which do not receive automatic classification. Certain land transactions cannot ... be undertaken before a reserve is classified [including] public notification of a draft management plan.</i></p>	Reserve classification	background of GP RMP	In scope	Accept - Council will need to address this legal requirement prior to deciding whether to adopt the final plan.
5822	Richard Barnaby/RW & MT Barnaby Limited	no	No	<p>THE CONCERNThe draft revision for the General Policies Reserve Management Plan, notes on page 4 that the plan "provides generic policies that will provide consistent management practices across all the reserves administered by Council." However, the plan does not address the combined legislative requirements of s.16 [Classification] and s.41 [Management Plans] of the Reserves Act 1977, and the current diverse</p>	Reserve classification	background of GP RMP	In scope	Accept - Council will need to address this legal requirement prior to deciding whether to adopt the final plan.

				range of parcel status is detrimental to consistency.				
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5822	Richard Barnaby/RW & MT Barnaby Limited	no	No	<p>THE CURRENT SITUATION</p> <p>A broad examination of the nine reserve management plans shows in many instances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reservation has been assumed to be classification. • There is no evidence to support reservation or classification • There is no evidence to support statements of jurisdiction, ie ownership, vesting, appointment to control and manage. <p>An Example</p> <p>The Huntly Domain and Lake Hakanoa Reserve Management Plan which was approved by Council on 23 August 2012, should be the first of nine plans to be reviewed. The plan lists 18 parcels - four for the Domain and 14 surrounding and including Lake Hakanoa.</p> <p>Huntly Domain</p> <p>Four parcels making up Huntly Domain are "owned and administered" by Waikato District Council and "mainly classified as Recreation Reserve." However, there is no detail evidencing reservation, classification or administration [jurisdiction].</p> <p>Landonline shows no evidence of District Council title to three parcels but Council ownership exists by way of statute. The fourth parcel has a title in</p>	Reserve classification	Appendix 1	Out of scope	
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				<p>the name of the Huntly Borough Council but the land is not reserve. Lake Hakanoa [and environs] Fourteen parcels making up Lake Hakanoa and environs are given a "Legal Description and Classification" but again there is no evidence of reservation, classification or administration [jurisdiction]. As an annexure [6pp] to this submission. We have listed Council data as set out in that management plan. Alongside compiled information from Landonline. The compiled information has not been verified completely, but is proffered as the type of information which should be given in any reserve management plan, as evidence of Council's interest and authority for any given parcel, so any lease or license or easement granted by Council is issues in terms of that authority.</p> <p>of the 18 parcels comprising the Huntly Domain and Lake Hakanoa Reserve Management Plan. Only six are classified reserves. The diverse range of parcel status revealed by this analysis, highlights the purpose of classification as a preliminary undertaking. Council is determining at the outset, the basis on which a</p>				
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				management plan for given parcels should be prepared.				
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5822	Richard Barnaby/RW & MT Barnaby Limited	no	No	<p>RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>It is recommended the GENERAL POLICIES RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledge all reserve parcels will be classified before management planning. • Require good title to all parcels be secured as prerequisite to management plan preparation. 	Reserve classification	Background of GP RMP	In scope	Accept - Council will need to address this legal requirement prior to deciding whether to adopt the final plan.
5822	Richard Barnaby/RW & MT Barnaby Limited	no	No	<p>LINK FOR PARCELS:</p> <p>file:///ganymede/group/CommunityAssets/Parks%20&%20Reserves/Strategy%20&%20policy/1.%20Reserve%20Management%20Plans/General%20Policies%20Reserve%20Management%20Plan/General%20Policies%20Review%202021/second%20Public%20notification/Second%20round%20of%20submissions/RW%20Barnaby%20Submission.pdf</p>	Reserve classification	Background of GP RMP	Out of scope	
5826	Russell Gibbs/Tamahere Mangaone restoration Trust	Yes	Yes	<p>Introduction</p> <p>Predator Free Tamahere (PFT) was established in June 2022 by a keen bunch of locals who were compelled to do something about the devastating impact which rats, mice, possums, and stoats have on the native ecosystems. PFT's vision is to see the tamahere gullies and backyards become predator free and full of thriving wildlife.</p> <p>As a result of efforts by the Tamahere</p>	N/A	N/A	Out of scope	

				<p>community, over 200 traps have been installed since June 2022. This has resulted in 178 possums and 181 fewer rats in local reserves and gullies. PFT acknowledged Ngāti Hauā as mana whenua in Tamahere. As part of our work, we are committed to building enduring, trusting relationship with Māori. We know that building relationships and working together on issues of mutual interest is the key to achieving our vision. We are also committed to working positively and collaboratively with Waikato District Council and the community. We are at the beginning of our journey, and we look forward to building positive working relationships with Waikato District Council staff and elected members alike.</p> <p>Scope of our submission PFT thanks Waikato District Council for the opportunity to make a submission on the Draft General Policies Reserve Management Plan (RMP). Given PFT's focus on animal pests, we have largely limited our submissions to commenting on pest management and biodiversity related issues.</p>				
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5826	Russell Gibbs/ Tamahere Mangaone restoration Trust	Yes	Yes	Section One of our submission provides general commentary on the issues we have identified as relevant to PFT. Section Two provides specific recommendations of the changes to the RMP to reflect this commentary.	N/A	N/A	Out of scope	
5826	Russell Gibbs/ Tamahere Mangaone restoration Trust	Yes	Yes	Section One - general commentary Strengthen pest management focu in the RMP PFT is of the view that pest management is of vital importance in protecting existing native vegetation - and any future ecological restoration - throughout the Waikato District. In particular central tenet of improving biodiversity and is pleased to see that pest animal management is a central tenet of improving biodiversity across the Waikato District. PFT would like to see pest management policies strengthened in relation to plantings on reserves. Detail of suggested changes are outlines in Section Two.	Biodiversity	1.4.2	In scope	Accept in part - Noting habitat restoration and pest control is undertaken by WDC as resources allow.

5826	Russell Gibbs/ Tamahere Mangaone restoration Trust	Yes	Yes	<p>Strengthen native vegetation and ecological corridors and connections focus in the RMP</p> <p>Large tracts of predominantly native vegetation play an important role in providing habitat for a range of native flora and fauna. Improving ecological corridors and connections throughout the Waikato District is also vital for the health and wellbeing of people. Additionally, connected resilient ecosystems will increasingly become a central policy tool in climate change mitigation and adaptation. PFT is of the view that the ecological function of a reserves network across the Waikato District can be strengthened in order to deliver on a range of social, environmental, and cultural outcomes.</p>	Sustainability	1.4	In scope	Accept in part - consideration to adding details to "support the establishment of ecological corridors with native vegetation"
5826	Russell Gibbs/ Tamahere Mangaone restoration Trust	Yes	Yes	<p>PFT would like to see greater focus on increasing the areas of native vegetation across the Waikato District and on improving their ecological strength, connectedness and resiliency. PFT sees that the significant gully systems in Tamahere represent an ideal opportunity to contribute to such outcomes. PFT would like to see pest management policies strengthened in relation to plantings on reserves. Detail of suggested changes are outlined in Section Two.</p>	Sustainability	1.4	In scope	Accept in part - no change to document, refer to other submission points.

5826	Russell Gibbs/ Tamahere Mangaone restoration Trust	Yes	Yes	Strengthen native vegetation and ecological corridors and connections focus in the RMP Large tracts of predominantly native vegetation play an important role in providing habitat for a range of native flora and fauna. Improving ecological corridors and connections throughout the Waikato District is also vital for health and wellbeing of people. Additionally, connected resilient ecosystems will increasingly become a central policy tool in climate change mitigation and adaptation. PFT is of the view that the ecological function of a reserves network cross the Waikato District can be strengthened in order to deliver on a range of social, environmental and cultural outcomes.	Sustainability	1.4	In scope	Accept in part - consideration to adding details to "support the establishment of ecological corridors with native vegetation"
5826	Russell Gibbs/ Tamahere Mangaone restoration Trust	Yes	Yes	PFT would like to see greater focus on increasing the areas of native vegetation across the Waikato District and on improving their ecological strength, connectedness and resiliency. PFT sees that the significant gully systems in Tamahere represent an ideal opportunity to contribute to such outcomes.	Sustainability	1.4	In scope	Accept - Noting Waikato District Council undertakes native vegetation planting projects and looks for opportunities to increase these areas as resources allow.

5826	Russell Gibbs/ Tamahere Mangaone restoration Trust	Yes	Yes	<p>Section 1.4.1 climate change fire risk and natural hazards, Policy 1.2: Support with changes.</p> <p>2. avoid and mitigate the impact of climate change and coastal erosion by:</p> <p>a. Undertaking <u>inidgenous</u> restoration, <u>pest management</u> and planting programmes to increase ecological resiliency</p> <p>Rationale: Prioritising native vegetation and ensuring that pest management is part of the climate change response will ensure that the plantings are reilient over time.</p>	Climate hange, fire risk and natural hazards	Section 1.4.1	In scope	Accept - add new policy as suggested
5826	Russell Gibbs/ Tamahere Mangaone restoration Trust	Yes	Yes	<p>Section 1.4.2 Biodiversity, Object A: Support, with changes.</p> <p>To protect, maintain and enhance the long term viability and resilience of native species, habitats and ecosystems <u>across the Waikato District</u> on reserves.</p> <p>Rationale: Amendments will demonstrate the role which the reserves network has on improving ecological resilience and connections across the Waikato District.</p>	Climate hange, fire risk and natural hazards	Section 1.4.2	In scope	Accept in part - noting that Council would like to protect / maintain / enhance habitats and ecosystems "across the district" but only has the resources to do this within land that it maintains

5826	Russell Gibbs/ Tamahere Mangaone restoration Trust	Yes	Yes	<p>Section 1.4.2 Biodiversity, Policy 1(a): Support, with changes. Support, with changes.</p> <p>Maintain restoration and ecological enhancement programmes on the district's reserves, and giving <u>give</u> priority to:</p> <p>a. Deliver Biodiversity programmes with a focus on pest animal and plan management as required by the Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan (and any subsequent updated plan) as resources allow.</p> <p>Rationale: If this is a priority – as opposed to as resources allow – it provides clearer direction for Council to prioritise funding for pest management through annual plan and long-term plan processes.</p>	Biodiversity	Section 1.4.2	In scope	Decline - Council would like to undertake and deliver more biodiversity programmes, but are limited by the amount of resources it has, particularly funding and staffing
5826	Russell Gibbs/ Tamahere Mangaone restoration Trust	Yes	Yes	<p>Section 1.4.2 Biodiversity, Policy 2: Addition of new policy. <u>Policy 2 (f): Incorporate animal pest management to ensure ongoing resilience of plantings on reserves</u></p> <p>Rationale: Pest management is of vital importance in protecting existing native vegetation – and any future ecological restoration – throughout the Waikato District.</p>	Biodiversity	Section 1.4.2	In scope	Accept - add new policy as suggested

5826	Russell Gibbs/ Tamahere Mangaone restoration Trust	Yes	Yes	<p>Section 1.4.2 Biodiversity, Policy 5: Support, in part. Where practicable foster the resilience of native species, habitats, and ecosystems to the adverse effects of unpredictable events, such as climate change or new incursions of pests or pathogens, through an adaptive management response, on a case-by-case basis</p> <p>Rationale: Suggested wording change strengthens the policy and ensures that a consistent policy approach is taken across the Waikato District.</p>	Biodiversity	Section 1.4.2	In scope	Accept in part - noting that Council would like to protect / maintain / enhance habitats and ecosystems "on a case-by-case basis" but only has the resources to do this within land that it maintains
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5826	Clare Robertson/ Auckland Waikato Fish and Game	Yes	No	<p>A. ROLE OF FISH AND GAME</p> <p>1. Fish and Game Councils are Crown entities established under the Conservation Act 1987 with functions to:</p> <p>26Q (1) ...manage, maintain, and enhance the sports fish and game resource in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters...</p> <p>(b) to maintain and improve the sports fish and game resource-</p> <p>(i) by maintaining and improving access; and ...</p> <p>(iv) by ensuring there are sufficient resources to enforce fishing and hunting season conditions; ...</p> <p>(c) to promote and educate - ...</p> <p>(ii) by promoting recreation based on sports fish and game; ...</p> <p>(e) in relation to planning, -</p> <p>(i) to represent the interests and aspirations of anglers and hunters in the statutory planning process; and ...</p> <p>(iii) to prepare sports fish and game management plans in accordance with this Act; and...</p> <p>(vii) to advocate the interests of the Council, including its interests in habitats...</p> <p>2. In addition to Fish and Game functions set out above, s7(h) of the Resource Management Act 1991</p>	N/A	N/A	Out of scope	
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				<p>("RMA") states that all persons in achieving the purpose of that Act "shall have particular regard to ... the protection of the habitat of trout and salmon".</p> <p>B. FISH AND GAME IN THE WAIKATO REGION</p> <p>1. Fish & Game manages, maintains, and enhances sports fish and game birds, and their habitats, in the best long-term interests of present and future generations of anglers and hunters. A not-for-profit organisation, funded through the sale of fishing and hunting licences.</p> <p>2. Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game (AWFG) is also unique among the Fish and Game regions because of the population it services; a large and increasingly urban population (including Auckland, Hamilton, and towns in between) with a relatively low proportion of accessible natural/non-built environments. Many of the reserves adjacent to lakes and rivers in the Waikato District are used extensively by recreational game bird hunters and anglers.</p> <p>3. The experience sought by</p>				
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				<p>recreational hunters and anglers in the Waikato District include the wilderness experience, the opportunity to engage in the sports, and the opportunity to obtain fish and game birds for food or enjoyment in a natural/non-built environment, all with minimal restriction. This is a significant recreational and cultural aspect of the region which deserves recognition, particularly given the projected increasing footprint of new settlement and industry.</p> <p>4. The Council has a responsibility as an administering body under the Reserves Act 1977, Section 41, to prepare management plans for the reserves and parks that it manages. The Reserves Act 1977 provides the legal classification system for reserves held under the Act and The Waikato District Council General Policies Reserve Management Plan has reserves grouped into different management categories, which have been developed by the Recreation Aotearoa to include Outdoor adventure, Nature,</p>				
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				<p>Recreation, and ecological links; therefore is essential that these categories are managed to ensure their safeguard along with the safeguard of wilderness experience received by recreational hunters and anglers using these reserves.</p>				
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5827	Clare Robertson/ Auckland Waikato Fish and Game	Yes	No	<p>1.4.1 Climate Change, Fire Risk and Natural Hazards pg. 10: Support.1. AWFG supports the objectives and policies set out in 1.4.1Climate Change, Fire Risk and Natural Hazards, withspecific support of policies 1, 2 and 3.2. AWFG supports the Waikato District Council in themanagement of climate change by focussing on mitigationand adaptation through the Waikato District CouncilClimate Response and Resilience Action Plan Framework(2020).3. AWFG acknowledges the Government’s long-term strategyfor building a climate resilient New Zealand, which sets outthe Government’s approach to adaptation. It has become alegal requirement for local government to ‘have regard to’the national adaptation plan and the emissions reductionplan when preparing or changing regional policystatements, regional plans, and district plans, where thesechanges aim to ensure RMA planning nationwide is in linewith Aotearoa New Zealand’s long-term climate strategiesand goals.</p> <p>Amendement required? No</p>	Climate Change, Fire risk, and natural hazards	1.4.1	In scope	Accept - noting support, no change to plan.
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5827	Clare Robertson/ Auckland Waikato Fish and Game	Yes	No	<p>1.4.2 Biodiversity pg. 13: Support.</p> <p>1. AWFG supports objectives A and B set out in 1.4.2 Biodiversity. “To protect, maintain and enhance the longterm viability and resilience of native species, habitats, and ecosystems on reserves” and “to inspire and encourage people to be actively engaged in caring for natural values on reserves”.</p> <p>2. AWFG supports policies 1 - 5 and acknowledges Te Mana o te Taiao, the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy, and the development of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB) which has objectives, policies and implementation requirements to manage natural and physical resources to maintain indigenous biodiversity under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).</p> <p>Amendment required? No</p>	Biodiversity	1.4.2	In scope	Accept - noting support, no change to plan.
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5827	Clare Robertson/ Auckland Waikato Fish and Game	Yes	No	<p>1.4.3 Sustainable Practices Pg. 14: Support with relief. 1. AWFG supports Objective A and policy 1 “to Ensure that sustainable management practices are taken into account in the design, operation, maintenance and development of the reserves across the Waikato District” with particular support for policy 1 D “Low impact design practices for stormwater management”. 2. AWFG requests the inclusion of additional policies for sustainable practices and land use models regarding the use of reserves adjacent to waterbodies to increase natural habitat and to reduce the amount of sediment and nutrients entering waterways. Amendment required? AWFG requests the inclusion of a policy which highlights sustainable practice for reserves adjacent to waterbodies. Policies that include measures such as additional riparian and restoration planting regimes to increase natural habitat and to reduce the amount of sediment and nutrients entering waterways, in line with the 1.4.1 Climate Change, Fire Risk and Natural Hazards and 1.4.2 Biodiversity policies.</p>	Sustainable practices	1.4.3	In scope	Accept - to review changes
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5827	Clare Robertson/ Auckland Waikato Fish and Game	Yes	No	<p>2.1 General Reserves Development Reserves pg. 15: Support with relief.</p> <p>1. AWFG supports the development of additional reserves which “can protect and enhance the landscape and natural values, assist with activating a reserve and enhance community appreciation and enjoyment of the reserve”.</p> <p>2. Local council reserves can be important for the protection of biodiversity in urban and rural areas as well as for provision of ecosystem services such as flood mitigation and soil conservation, and provision of amenity and recreation. If planned and managed in a sustainable way, reserves can have numerous, positive, cultural, and ecological values.</p> <p>Amendment required? AWFG requests the inclusion of specific policies for the development of reserves for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecosystem services.</p>	General Reserve Development	2.1	Out of scope	
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5827	Clare Robertson/ Auckland Waikato Fish and Game	Yes	No	<p>4.2.1 -4.2.2 Leases and Licences pgs. 28 -30: Relief sought.1. There are reserves within the Waikato District which are currently leased or utilised for grazing without any formal agreement. Grazing on council reserves is often poorly managed with a lack of oversight from the Waikato District Council staff. This can lead to adverse effects on adjacentwaterways including the degradation of ecosystem health. There is a complete lack of policies in the draft plan to address grazing of council reserves and the adverse effects this can create.2. Surface run-off from intensive or poorly managed pastoral land (particularly cattle, pigs, and deer) carries a range of contaminants to waterways including nutrients, faecal microbes, and fine sediment. Wet conditions can result in greater run-off volumes and increased sediment, nutrient and pathogen concentrations into waterways. Grazing management to minimise bare ground and treading damage can decrease the risk of pollutants reaching waterways from run-off. In any landscape, critical source areas (often near waterways) that contribute sediment canbe identified. Careful grazing management and</p>	Leases and Licences	4.2.1	In scope	Accept in part - The actual land parcels have not been identified, so it is unsure where the writer is referring to. Seek further information from the writer. This may refer to numerous esplanade reserves that Council has around
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				attenuation measures (e.g., riparian buffer strips,) can be targeted to these areas for greatest effect.				
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5827	Clare Robertson/ Auckland Waikato Fish and Game	Yes	No	<p>3. Under the Resource Management (Stock Exclusion) Regulations 2020, stock must be excluded and kept at least 3 meters from the edge of the bed of a lake or a river with a bed greater than 1 m wide at any point on the parcel of land and stock must be excluded from natural wetlands. The Government has also introduced the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater 2020 (NES-FW) as part of its Essential Freshwater package which includes regulations to better control the impacts of intensive Winter Grazing.</p> <p>4. Schedule C of Plan Change 1 requires all waterbodies on land with a slope of up to 15 degrees, or where the slope is >15 degrees and farming on the adjoining land exceeds 18 stock units/ha, to be fenced to exclude cattle, horses, deer, and pigs.</p> <p>Amendment required?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policies should take into account Stock Exclusion, NES-FW and PC1 regulations to ensure that at a minimum, grazing practices on council reserves are fully compliant. • The policies should prescribe some timeframes by which these minimum standards will be achieved. • Given that many reserves are 	Leases and Licenses	4.2.1	In scope	Accept - to review changes
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				apparently used without any formal lease or agreement by adjoining landowners, consideration should be given to developing a separate policy section to deal with non-permitted use of council reserves that focusses on compliance with the relevant legislation.				
5827	John Lawson	Yes	No	page 10 - Objectives - A. To manage reserves in a way that minimises and mitigates the impact of climate change COMMENT – The policies in this section should not only minimise the impact, but also aim for a target to reduce reserves land-use emissions, in line with the Climate Response & Resilience Policy, which says - 9.3 Ensure that low emission, climate-	Climate change, fire risk, and natural hazards	1.4.1	In scope	Accept - to review policy and add "In alignment with Climate Response & Resilience Policy, the creation of the new overarching Climate Response Strategy with key projects that

				resilient development is adopted as a key tenet into . . . land-use decisions . . . including our . . . plans, urban design and . . . transport planning . . .				deliver on emission reduction targets, will seek for increased planting on reserves to assist deliver on annual emission reduction."
5828	John Lawson	Yes	No	9.10 Strive for best practice in response to Climate Change - including . . . reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Ways to do this should be in the Plan, such as removing cattle from reserves, minimising parking and maximising access by active modes.	Climate change, fire risk, and natural hazards	1.4.1	In scope	Accept - Noting that Waikato District Council is currently looking into reducing stock on reserves where feasible.
5828	John Lawson	Yes	No	page 14 - The management of the reserves provides opportunities to demonstrate best environmental practice and sustainability to the local community, both in the day-to-day management of reserves and in specific conservation projects. This includes revegetation to mitigate the impacts of climate change and allow for carbon sequestration. COMMENT – mowing costs (and emissions) could be reduced by returning many areas of reserve to bush, though maintaining views.	Sustainable practices	1.4.3	In scope	Accept - Noting that Waikato District Council is currently looking into reducing stock on reserves where feasible.

5828	John Lawson	Yes	No	page 17 - car parking that is relevant to the reserve's purpose, location, and likely demand during non-peak use. COMMENT - parking should be minimised and access by active and public transport modes maximised to support Policy 1 above and the Climate Response & Resilience Policy.	Access and Parking	2.2	In scope	Accept in part - no change to plan. Noted that any parking provision will be relevant to reserve purpose and use. Not all reserves will have public transport to them.
5828	John Lawson	Yes	No	page 36 - rubbish bins are a reserve user convenience and therefore will be placed at destination reserves or where there is a clearly demonstrated need. COMMENT – recycling should be maximised and recycling bins used, rather than litter bins. Litter bins often overflow, increasing, rather than decreasing litter problems. To minimise litter, maximise recycling and reduce costs, it will often be appropriate to remove all bins – see for example https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/news/2021/7/why-litter-bins-are-not-always-the-answer/ and https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/17102/litter_innovation_fund_summary_report_january_2019.pdf .	Waste	5.2	In scope	Accept in part - Review wording of policy to include "recycling options to be maximized alongside. small local purpose reserves I agree that rubbish bins should not be provided, and park users should pack in and pack out rubbish unless there is a BBQ / cooking facility nearby."

5828	Alan Greensill			<p>I, Alan Maling Greensill make this submission to the Waikato District Council in regards to the Councils General Policies Reserves Management Plan – DRAFT for Public Consultation September.</p> <p>My comments relate mainly to coastal reserves. These are noted in red; items 1 to 17 below in their respective categories as set out in the table of contents:</p>	N/A	N/A	Out of scope	
	Alan Greensill			<p>Purpose of this plan P4 How to use this document: “The term “reserve” is used collectively for coastal beach reserves, esplanades, that are managed by Council”</p>	N/A	N/A	Out of scope	
	Alan Greensill			<p>Item 1: Council commits to establishing bylaws preventing horse-riding and vehicles on the beaches in particular where erosion is an ongoing issue such as at Te Kopua Raglan.</p>	N/A	N/A	Out of scope	

	Alan Greensill			<p>ITEM 2: Council discourages horse-riding, motorbikes and other vehicles on beaches because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shellfish beds, anthropoids, isopods and other marine creatures that are exposed to potential damage • Dune plants need protecting so they can recover and build sand dune areas following erosion events • Health and safety risks increase when families and dogs are recreating on the beaches. • Pleasantness, harmony, and cohesion of the natural environment is retained and allows for better use and enjoyment of the coastal space. 	N/A	N/A	Out of scope	
	Alan Greensill			<p>ITEM 3: Prohibit the possession or consumption of alcohol, drugs or substances abuse in a Reserve.</p>	N/A	N/A	Out of scope	
	Alan Greensill			<p>ITEM 4: Support the rights of Tangata Whenua under the Treaty to uphold and protect their cultural values relating to Tangaroa and the coastal marine area adjacent to reserves.</p>	Relationship with Mana Whenua	1.1	In scope	Accept - Consider re-writing of this section of the plan to ensure that these values are captured within the draft plan.
	Alan Greensill			<p>ITEM 5: Council provide resources to monitor and prosecute offenders of bylaws.</p>	N/A	N/A	Out of scope	

	Alan Greensill			<p>ITEM 6: Council should restrict access to beaches suffering from severe coastal erosion cycles to preserve the stability of the coastal reserve land and encourage the public to use other areas for recreation.</p>	Climate change, Fire risk, and natural hazards	1.4.1	In scope	Accept in part - noting that the beaches are part of the attraction that encourages public to visit Council parks, access may be restricted for some activities to protect the coastal environment, e.g. No motorbikes
	Alan Greensill			<p>Waikato District Council Reserves P4 Council manages approximately 484 local reserves, spanning of 2,177 hectares. This land includes playgrounds, local town reserves, coastal settings, sports grounds and natural bush areas. All Waikato District Council's actively managed reserves are listed in Appendix 1.</p> <p>ITEM 7: Inclusion of co-governance with Tangata whenua be included.</p>	Relationship with Mana Whenua	1.1	In scope	Accept- Amend plan to include where Council have agreement with Tangata whenua for the co-governance of reserves
	Alan Greensill			<p>Section 1 - Reserve Values: ITEM 8: 1.1 Relationship with Mana Whenua P8 Objective A. To work in partnership with mana whenua to implement the principles of kaitiakitanga (guardianship) of reserves and recognise mana</p>	Relationship with Mana whenua	1.1	In scope	Accept in part - Amend plan to include "and coastal linkages"

				whenua's connection with the land ADD 'and coastal margins.				
	Alan Greensill			Policies ITEM 9 - add: 3. Recognise and support mana whenua tikanga, kawa, customs to protect and access sites and gather cultural resources	Relationship with Mana whenua	1.1	In scope	Accept - Change plan as detailed in submission
	Alan Greensill			Section 1.4 – Sustainability: Policies 3. Stormwater, flooding, and erosion ITEM 10: ADD e. Restrict all direct stormwater discharges into coastal sand dune environments	Sustainability	1.4	In scope	Accept in part - Council are unable to divert all current stormwater discharges, particularly natural forms
	Alan Greensill			ITEM 11: 4. Fire management ADD d. Ensure forested areas have windbreaks and are able to be accessed by Fire and Emergency vehicles.	Sustainability	1.4	In scope	Accept in part - seek further information around details of windbreaks - could this be "firebreaks"? Fire and Emergency are

								to have access to areas as required.
	Alan Greensill			<p>Objectives ITEM 12: Request 2A: Add new objective; provide reserve land for Tangata Whenua cultural and economical development.</p>	Sustainability	1.4	In scope	Accept in part. Further consultation with hapu required to clarify intentions and desires. Note that any development cannot exclude public use of reserve land.
	Alan Greensill			<p><u>Section 2 – Development of Reserves:</u> Section 2.4 Furniture P19 Objectives ITEMS 13 & 14 A.provide sufficient reserve furniture to facilitate public use and enjoyment of the outdoor recreational environment B.To ensure a coordinated and consistent approach to the design, selection, and placement of all reserve furniture C.Request 2B: Add new objective; ensure that furniture is culturally appropriate and enable Tangata Whenua to participate D.Limit memorial seats and structures</p>	Furniture	2.4	In scope	Decline - Conflicts with monuments, memorial, plaques policy

				in reserves to those who have lived locally or have historical connection to the place.				
	Alan Greensill			Section 2.5 - Lighting P20 Objective ITEMS 15: Add new objective B: That dark sky areas be preserved where practical to minimize impact on biodiversity and allow sky view of stars eg. Kapehu Whetu (Maori Star Compass)	Lighting	2.5	In scope	Accept - Review wording of policy to include "lighting should be selected to minimise light pollution"

	Alan Greensill			<p>Section 3 – Use of Reserves No additions or variations</p> <p>Section 4 – Authorisations and Approvals:4.2 Occupation Agreements</p> <p>ObjectivesITEMS 16 & 17:A.Add new Objective G: Tangata whenua have historically in some cases been alienated or lost land of cultural significance that have become reserves. Council will work with aggrieved parties to revest such land in the original owners. B.ADD Objective H Ensure tangata whenua have equitable access to occupation orders.</p>	Occupation Agreements	4.2	In scope	E - this point requires further consultation with hapu to clarify intentions and desires
	Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa	Yes		<p>Submission to Waikato District Council on General Policies Reserve Management Plan</p> <p>Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa — the Outdoor Access Commission</p>	N/A	N/A	Out of scope	
	Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa	Yes		<p>Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa—The Outdoor Access Commission is the Crown agent responsible for providing leadership on outdoor access issues. Our role is to advise on and advocate for free, certain, enduring and practical access to the outdoors. We administer a national strategy on outdoor access, including tracks and trails. We map outdoor access,</p>	N/A	N/A	Out of scope	

				provide information to the public, oversee a code of responsible conduct in the outdoors, help resolve access issues and negotiate new access.				
	Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa	Yes		<p>Summary of key points</p> <p>In Herenga ā Nuku's submission on the Reserve Management Plan, we:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encourage a view of landscape connectivity that regards reserves as recreational assets as well as green space corridors for active transport 	N/A	N/A	Out of scope	
	Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa	Yes		encourage Waikato District Council (WDC) to identify what role the Reserves Management plan plays in meeting WDC Climate Response and Resilience Action Plan Framework November 2020.	climate change	1.4.1	In scope	Accept in part - Review what impact the WDC Climate Response plan has on RMP outcomes - amend as required

	Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa	Yes		<p>Key considerations</p> <p>incompling our submission, we considered the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of reserves in providing recreational spaces and green corridors for connectivity. • Significant population growth predicted for the Waikato District Council area and how population growth and housing densification affects the availability and quality of outdoor public access within the Waikato District. 	N/A	N/A	Out of scope	
	Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa	Yes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The evolving uses for outdoor spaces and how people recreate. This includes a decline in organised sport and an increase in self-directed physical activity. • Distinctions between transport exercise are blurring as more people to use active transport modes. 	N/A	N/A	Out of scope	
	Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa	Yes		<p>Local Government NZ's position statement on climate change. Which identified three key areas requiring action. The first point, actions to reduce emissions (mitigation), is particularly relevant.</p> <p>Herenga ā Nuku's role as the crown agency for advocacy on public outdooraccess and the statutory underpinning of publicaccess in Aotearoa. Our work with groups and</p>	Climate change	1.4.1	In scope	Accept - no change to plan

				individuals in the region with outdoor access interested and aspirations.				
	Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa	Yes		<p>Our submission</p> <p>With respect to the above considerations, we offer the following submission points:</p> <p>Feedback on the General Policies Reserve Management Plan</p> <p>Note:</p> <p><i>where parts of the draft strategy are quoted, the phrases appear in italics</i></p>	N/A	N/A	Out of scope	
	Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa	Yes		<p>Page 10 1.4.1 Climate Change, Fire Risk, and Natural Hazards</p> <p>Herenga ā Nuku notes that it is WDC policy to minimise and mitigate the impact of climate change and encourage WDC to consider how the use of future planning of reserves can contribute to reducing carbon emissions from transport. This could be achieved by promoting and enabling active transport to and within reserves, creating new active transport routes (especially green corridors) and providing bike parking facilities within reserves.</p>	Climate Change	4.1	In scope	Accept in part - Note other submission points around green corridors / active transport.

	Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa	Yes		<p>Page 13 1.4.2 Biodiversity Policies</p> <p>2. Any plantings undertaken on reserves will:</p> <p>Herenga ā Nuku encourages WDC to consider the impact of plantings on paths and trails created within a reserve to ensure that plantings facilitate access along trails within reserves</p>	Biodiversity	1.4.2	In scope	Accept - no change to plan. This request is a management / operational activity, not a policy
	Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa	Yes		<p>Page 14 1.4.3 Sustainable Practices</p> <p>Herenga ā Nuku supports the sustainable practices approach taken in this plan and is heartened to note the recognition of the need for bike parking facilities.</p> <p><i>Council can also encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport by including infrastructure such as bike parking into reserve designs. This technology will evolve over time and Council needs to keep abreast of new innovations in this space.</i></p> <p><i>Herenga ā Nuku encourage WDC to look beyond just creating bike parking to actively incorporating bike/walking/bridal paths within reserves and utilising reserves and other linking public spaces to create active transport corridors.</i></p>	Sustainable practices	1.4.3	In scope	Accept - Change plan as detailed in submission

	Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa	Yes		Page 16 2.2 Access and Parking Objectives A. To provide safe, logical and adequate access to and through reserves and car parks for vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians whilst minimising impacts on users, facilities, amenity values, and the general character of the reserve	Access and Parking	2.2	In scope	Accept - no change to plan
	Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa	Yes		<p>Herenga ā Nuku supports providing adequate access to and through reserves for vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians.</p> <p>Herenga ā Nuku encourages WDC to add 'supporting active transport' as a reserves management objective. By actively seeking opportunities for active transport, reserve management helps the council to meet climate change objectives.</p> <p>Herenga ā Nuku encourages WDC to allow the widest possible array of active regional pursuits within reserves.</p>	Access and Parking	2.2	In scope	Accept - Change plan to include "supporting active transport"

	Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa	Yes		<p>Page 23 2.8 Signage Objectives</p> <p>To provide sufficient signs to facilitate public use, heritage and site appreciation, and enjoyment of the outdoor recreational environment. Herenga ā Nuku encourages WDC to ensure that all reserves have some signage that enable the public to identify that the area is public space (reserve). The absence of signs means some people don't use public space while others treat it as unauthorised private space.</p>	Signage	2.8	In scope	Decline - as there are many public spaces that are vested for future use, are not developed and are not promoted or suitable for public use. All local purpose parks that have a management plan and hold council assets for public use however, should (and do?) have appropriate signage.
	Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa	Yes		<p>Concluding comments</p> <p>We support WDC's intention in the General Policies Reserve Management Plan. Particularly the recognition of sustainable modes of transport within reserves. We submit that the plan would benefit from referencing the WDC Climate Response and Resilience Action Plan Framework so that benefits and actions to facilitate active transport are written into the plan.</p>	Climate change	1.4.1	In scope	Accept - Change plan to include "supporting active transport"

	Sport Waikato			<p>1.ABOUT SPORT WAIKATO</p> <p>Sport Waikato is one of 14 Regional Sports Trusts in Aotearoa/New Zealand, responsible for supporting Central Government and Sport New Zealand’s focus on getting more New Zealanders physically active. There is widespread and global evidence that physical activity enhances people’s physical, social, emotional, and mental health, education outcomes and general wellbeing - and makes for a more cohesive society. Founded in 1986, Sport Waikato’s vision is to have “everyone active” so as to achieve a healthy, vibrant, physically active region through play, active recreation and sport.</p>	N/A	N/A	Out of scope	
	Sport Waikato			<p>OUR APPROACHSport Waikato is guided by Moving Waikato – the region’s unified strategy for physical activity throughplay, active recreation and sport. The strategy seeks to prioritise partnerships with other key agencies toinfluence key outcomes, including to increase the provision of opportunities for both participation andquality experiences for the people of the region. We believe that by working together we can achieve theultimate goal of 75% of all Waikato adults and young people meeting the physical activity guidelines by2030</p>	N/A	N/A	Out of scope	

	Sport Waikato			<p>2. OUR SUBMISSION ON YOUR DRAFT GENERAL POLICIES RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN</p> <p>In our submission, we wish to comment on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you: On behalf of the people of the Waikato District, Sport Waikato thank you for your ongoing contribution to play, active recreation and sport. District and city councils are key enablers of physical activity, and your effort and investment are noted and sincerely appreciated. • We note that this Draft General Policy Reserve Management Plan is additional to the Sports Park Reserve Management Plan (8th June 2015). It is important to note, however, that spontaneous play, active recreation and sport often occurs frequently outside of dedicated sporting locations and therefore, we encourage Council to consider how the General Policy Reserve Management Plan can make provisions for and enable play, active recreation and sport to occur. 	N/A	N/A	In scope	Accept - no change to plan.
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	Sport Waikato			<p>Reserve Values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We encourage consideration of how all spaces, places and infrastructure could be playable - not just the specific play/sport equipment, facilities, and grounds, but all assets and the network that connects them. As such, utilities, landscaping, planting and vegetation, car parking, • walkways/cycleways, fencing, bollards, stormwater and mowing patterns, for example, are all potential ways for play activation to occur in ways that will further enhance reserves. Walking and cycling networks can themselves be playable (i.e., fun shapes and designs), rather than just a means for connecting playable spaces, for example 	General Reserve Development	2.1	In scope	Accept - change plan to include as detailed in submission
	Sport Waikato			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where civil works take place, we encourage commitments be made to enhance play amenity through reinstatement following civil works 	N/A	N/A	Out of scope	
	Sport Waikato			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of stormwater creates challenges but also creates opportunities for how play can be incorporated into infrastructure to create new and innovative playable assets. A view where opportunities are safe as necessary, rather than as safe as possible can help to create dual-purpose spaces that invite engagement. 	General Reserve Development	2.1	In scope	Accept in part - Consideration of point to be included in explanation

	Sport Waikato			<p>Development of Reserves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We encourage Council to consider reviewing the use of the term 'passive transport', and the accompanying example of cycling. Active transport is any self-propelled mode of transportation (such as walking, jogging, cycling, or skating) to get from one place to another. Connection, access, parking and storage for a range of multi-modal transport options are important considerations to ensure accessible and inclusive spaces and places. 	General Reserve Development	2.1	In scope	Accept - amend wording of plan to include as per submission "A partnership quality sport and recreation experiences"
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	Sport Waikato			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are pleased to see that the concept of hubbing is represented within the plan but would like to emphasise that this moves beyond a cluster of buildings. Sport NZ define a Sport & Recreation Hub as: <i>“A partnership where organisations collaborate and share expertise, programmes, facilities and/or services strategically, sometimes via an independently governed group, within a defined geographical area, to provide sustainable, quality sport and recreation experiences”</i> <p>Many hubs proactively arise from a shared desire to broaden their offer, collaborate with resources and logistics, to better provide for their communities and are not always the result of reacting to adverse circumstances. Successful hubs we have seen blend their offer between commercial and community activities incorporating sport, health, education, youth, arts and creative offers throughout the day, and across the week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important to acknowledge that in some cases a level of commercial activity is necessary in order to provide an attractive service, maintain 	Buildings and other structures	2.3	In scope	Accept in part - Consideration of point to be included in the new event strategy
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				and develop services and infrastructure, and sustain the ongoing ability of a hub to meet the needs of the community.				
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	Sport Waikato			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We recommend that council takes an early and active role in the management of lighting. The Waikato District has an identified shortfall of playing hours across its sports field network. Lighting of physical activity spaces is an excellent way to increase the number of playable hours of that space, without the need to purchase land or develop elsewhere. We have seen examples of arrangements where different groups control access to fields, clubhouses, lights etc, and can sometimes lead to restricted and reduced opportunities. Best practice arrangements could cover; clubhouse footprint leases, partnership agreements that provide for installation and maintenance of lighting infrastructure, and council fairly and equitably managing bookings for spaces and lighting. 	Lighting	2.5	In scope	Accept -noting that a range of lighting should be looked into to ensure where it is installed and utilised that this is completed using the most climate sensitive methodology
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	Sport Waikato			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We welcome the inclusion of play and play-on-the-way within the General Policy, including avoiding duplication, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), universal design, and naturalplay, but encourage a broader vision of play and play spaces. 	General Reserve Development	2.1	In scope	Accept - Noting the vision of what is play and where and who has expanded over the past year in theoretical terms which needs to now be harnessed and brought through in policy with the understanding that play will happen anywhere and looking to include this in various planning not restricted solely to open spaces.
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	Sport Waikato			<p>o In particular, we recommend that play provision for adults is considered and included. Play is for everyone, and not limited only to children. Play can happen anywhere - not just in playgrounds, and its benefits can be enjoyed by all ages and stages. It is spontaneous, fun, and personally directed with no predetermined outcome. Provision of opportunities should be equitable and meet the needs of users and communities. This includes attending to all aspects of accessibility, diversity and inclusion such as gender, sexuality, culture, ability, and ethnicity (among others). While we acknowledge the implied spirit of universal design, attention should be given to going beyond the business as usual of basketball courts and skateparks to consider additional areas and examples valued by girls – such as performance spaces, musical and creative play, and access to opportunities not habitually dominated by boys. The UK group ‘Make Space for Girls’ suggests some ideas for consideration.</p>	General Reserve Development	2.1	In scope	Accept- discussed with further discussion required to ensure that this is designed into future opportunities
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	Sport Waikato			<p><u>Use of Reserves</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We recommend recognising parks as not just for respite. Such spaces should 'attract' people through physical activity opportunities, restorative effects, and positive social interaction, and in turn, provide the opportunity for individuals and communities to become positively 'attached' to spaces that support wellbeing 	Public Health and Safety	5.3	In scope	Accept- discussed with further discussion required to ensure that this is designed into future opportunities
	Sport Waikato			<p><u>Authorisations and Approvals</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alongside specific play, active recreation and sport recommendations, the Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan (WRASP) provides a framework to ensure that any play, recreation and sport infrastructure built on reserve land supports the approach of network optimisation and connectivity of spaces, as opposed to a sole focus of minimisation. The WRASP also talks to future planning and decision-making criteria for sustainable, collaborative, integrated, inclusive and flexible facilities that meet needs for sport, but also for active recreation pursuits (e.g., walking, recreational cycling and horse riding). 	N/A	N/A	Out of scope	

	Nicola Laboyrie/Horse Access Advocates Waikato Inc.	no		Do you have any further comments or feedback? Yes, in the main the draft document addresses the vision, objectives and policies. However we note there is NO reference to horse riders as a stakeholder group. “ Section 2.2 Access and Parking, Objective A: Vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians.” We request that ‘horse-riders’ be included as a stakeholder group.	Access and Parking	Section 2.2	In scope	Accept - Amend wording to read "Vehicles, riders and pedestrians"
	Nicola Laboyrie/Horse Access Advocates Waikato Inc.	no		Horse riders do not need buildings or special infrastructure. Where trails can be designated for horse riding we simply require parking areas that are suitable for horse trailers and trucks. Trails can be on grass or other easy footing surfaces with signage to indicate the route.	N/A	N/A	Out of scope	
	Nicola Laboyrie/Horse Access Advocates Waikato Inc.	no		Equestrian sport has many benefits for engaging our youth by providing an outdoor and animal connection. (Section 2.6 Play facilities pg 21/22).	N/A	N/A	Out of scope	
	Nicola Laboyrie/Horse Access Advocates Waikato Inc.	no		The Waikato District is poorly served for public facilities/areas for horse riders. This is astounding considering the economic importance of the equestrian industry to this region and the significant number of horse enthusiasts in the Waikato. This lack of public facilities makes horse riding a	N/A	N/A	Out of scope	

				less accessible sport for lower income families.				
	Nicola Laboyrie/Horse Access Advocates Waikato Inc.	no		Due to the temperate climate and availability of grazing land, keeping a horse is possible for lower income families in the Waikato. It is the lack of public places to ride that is the significant deterrent. The roads are no longer suitable for hacking due to many factors such as changes to the verges, lack of driver etiquette to passing horses on the road and increased speed limits of vehicles.	N/A	N/A	Out of scope	
	Nicola Laboyrie/Horse Access Advocates Waikato Inc.	no		We at HAAWI wish to positively engage with our Council to address this imbalance and provide public access for horse riders in the Waikato.	N/A	N/A	Out of scope	
	Angeline Greensill/Tainui o tainui	Yes		1.0 Introduction 1.1. My name is Angeline Elizabeth Ngahina Greensill. I present this submission on the Draft General Policies Reserve Management Plan on behalf of the Tainui Hapu Environmental Management Committee, and Tainui o Tainui as several Council coastal beach reserves and esplanades are located within the rohe of Tainui o Tainui ki Whāingaroa	N/A	N/A	Out of scope	

	Angeline Greensill/Tainui o tainui	Yes		1.2. Tainui o Tainui is comprised of 12 hapu who have land and sea interests north, within and south of Whaingaroa moana. One of its purposes is to “encourage, engage and consult with the Waikato Regional Council, the Waikato District Council, Ngā Hapū o te Uru Customary Fisheries Forum, the Department of Conservation and other statutory authorities as appropriate, to establish policies, processes and procedures and make decisions which will preserve and enhance the special character of the rohe moana o Tainui hapu o Tainui waka landscape, heritage and resources for the benefit of future generations”.	N/A	N/A	Out of scope	
	Angeline Greensill/Tainui o tainui	Yes		1.3. Tainui support the purpose of the plan and understands the relationship of this plan with other Council documents and legislation.	Background	N/A	In scope	Accept - no change to plan.
	Angeline Greensill/Tainui o tainui	Yes		1.4. Page 5. Tainui requests that if Reserves are within a hapu rohe, that Council consider co-management arrangement with local hapu .	Relationship with Mana Whenua	1.1	Out of scope	
	Angeline Greensill/Tainui o tainui	Yes		2. Page 7 makes reference to “Bylaws and standalone policies taking precedence over the General Policies RMP” and avoiding duplication of content. Please begin the process to reinstate the Reserves and Beaches Bylaw soon as possible as without	N/A	N/A	Out of scope	

				rules, beaches, dune plants biota and other marine creatures adjacent to the reserves will continue to be destroyed by vehicles, horses and sulkies.				
	Angeline Greensill/Tainui o tainui	Yes		2.1. Page 8. Tainui agree Te Tiriti o Waitangi is an important document signed by tupuna and the Crown. We support the reference to Te Tiriti in the plan and would welcome the opportunity to have a Joint Management Agreement and MOU drawn up with Council to recognise and maintain a relationship with council as envisaged by both parties when it was initially signed.	Relations hip with Mana Whenua	1.1	In scope	Accept - Change to plan required, following further consultation with hapu around relationships with different reserves and linkages
	Angeline Greensill/Tainui o tainui	Yes		3. Reserve Values Page 9 Objective A Add 'and coastal margins'. Tainui support policies 1 to 4.	Cultural and Historic Heritage	1.3	In scope	Accept -Review working to be added to this section of plan.
	Angeline Greensill/Tainui o tainui	Yes		4. Relationships with Volunteers and Partnerships. Tainui are not just mana whenua, we are also volunteers who carry out voluntary work including eradicating pests (animals and weeds) and planting fore/ back dunes and riverbanks. The majority of funding however has gone to other community organisations	Relations hips with Volunteer s and Partnersh ips	1.2	In scope	Accept - no change to plan.

	Angeline Greensill/Tainui o tainui	Yes		5. Tainui support 1.3. Cultural and Historic Heritage	Cultural Heritage	1.3	In scope	Accept - no change to plan.
	Angeline Greensill/Tainui o tainui	Yes		6. Tainui support 1.4. Sustainability and the Objectives and Policies of climate change, Fire risk and natural hazards with the following amendments;	Sustainability	1.4	In scope	Accept - no change to plan.
	Angeline Greensill/Tainui o tainui	Yes		6.1.1. Stormwater, flooding, and erosion policy ADD (e) Restrict all direct stormwater discharges into coastal sand dune environments. Stormwater from the land has been observed as contributing to weakening of banks leading to coastal erosion of foreshore lands fronting reserves.	Climate change, Fire Risk, and Natural hazards	1.4.1	In scope	Accept in part - Council are unable to divert all current stormwater discharges, particularly natural forms
	Angeline Greensill/Tainui o tainui	Yes		6.1.2 Fire Management ADD (d) Ensure forested areas have windbreaks and are able to be accessed by Fire and Emergency vehicles	Climate change, Fire Risk, and Natural hazards	1.4.2	In scope	Accept in part - seek further information around details of windbreaks - could this be "firebreaks"?. Fire and Emergency are to have access to areas as required.
	Angeline Greensill/Tainui o tainui	Yes		6.1.3 Tainui support 1.4.2. Biodiversity Objectives and Policies. ; 1.4.3 Sustainable practices	Sustainability	1.4.	In scope	Accept - no change to plan.

	Angeline Greensill/Tainui o tainui	Yes		7. Development of Reserves Policy d and e. 7.1. ADD Close gates to Reserves at night to minimise opportunities for vandalism of Reserves . Tainui support the use of design to deter or prevent crime in Reserves.	General Reserve Development	2.1	In scope	Accept - Review wording of policy to include "Close gates to Reserves at night to minimise opportunities for vandalism of Reserves. Tainui support the use of design to deter or prevent crime in Reserves."
	Angeline Greensill/Tainui o tainui	Yes		7.2. Tainui support 2.2. Access and Parking. ADD h. Where there is an erosion event which has destroyed an access to a beach, Council should restrict access to that area and provide signage to encourage people to use another less compromised accessway.	Access and Parking	2.2	In scope	Accept in part - Amend to read "ADD h. Where there is an erosion event which has destroyed an access to a beach, Council MAY restrict access to that area and provide signage to encourage people to use another less compromised accessway. "

	Angeline Greensill/Tainui o tainui	Yes		8. 2.4 Furniture - Donated commemorative assets should be restricted to local whanau or those who have a connection to a place. Lighting - ADD new objective B: That dark sky areas be preserved where practical to minimize impact on biodiversity and allow sky view of stars eg. Kapehu Whetu (Maori Star Compass)	Furniture	2.4	In scope	Decline - The Plaques, Memorials and Monuments Policy states the requirement for those strongly linked to the district. The donation of memorial furniture will need to be approved by the local community board and Council. Please note: this policy is up for review this year so any further concerns and suggestions can be brought up in this review.
	Angeline Greensill/Tainui o tainui	Yes		9. Tainui support Objectives and policies 2.6. Play facilities, 2.7 Public Art and 2.8 signage.	Development of Reserves	2	In scope	Accept - no change to plan.
	Angeline Greensill/Tainui o tainui	Yes		10. 4. Authorisations and Approvals. Accept. Occupation agreements , leases or licences	Occupation agreements	4.2	Out of scope	
	Angeline Greensill/Tainui o tainui	Yes		10.1. ADD Ensure that mana whenua and local business have priority over organisations who are from outside the district.	N/A	N/A	Out of scope	

	Angeline Greensill/Tainui o tainui	Yes		11. 5. Reserve Management - Support policy against the scattering of ashes in reserves.	Ashes and Whenua	5.1	In scope	Accept - no change to plan.
	Angeline Greensill/Tainui o tainui	Yes		11.1. Waste – Embark on an education programme to discourage reserve users from littering.	Waste	5.2	In scope	Accept in part - review wording to plan around education and rubbish removal.
	Angeline Greensill/Tainui o tainui	Yes		12. 5.4 Naming of Reserves Tainui supports this section.	Naming of Reserves	5.4	In scope	Accept - no change to plan.

Draft Waikato District Council General Policies Reserve Management Plan

April 2023

Adopted by Council 8th June 2015

Reviewed and Adopted by Council XXXXXX

Process timeline

Public Consultation Pre-engagement

18 May – 17 June 2022

Public Consultation on Draft Management Plan

12 October – 12 December 2022

Hearing for Public Submission

17 April 2023

Management Plan Adopted

xxxxxx

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Purpose of this plan

How to use this document

Waikato District Council (Council) is responsible for managing local reserves within its area. Reserves are a key link to health, social wellbeing, and cultural identity of the Waikato District. These reserves contain some major natural landscapes and culturally significant settings that contribute to the character, sense of place and to the local economy.

For the simplicity of this document, the term “reserve” is used collectively for parks, open spaces, recreation areas, natural bush, coastal beach reserves, esplanades, that are managed by Council for a variety of purposes and public benefits.

Reserve management plans (RMP) provide direction for the day-to-day management of parks and reserves. Determining community preferences and establishing the best means to provide for them are essential ingredients of good management planning. A management plan provides the community with certainty about the function and management of reserves that are managed by Council. It also helps ensure that management decisions are consistent with the principles of the Reserves Act 1977.

This management plan provides generic policies that will provide consistent management practices across all the reserves administered by Council. The draft plan contains land for which the Council has decision making powers, land held under the Reserves Act and the Local Government Act (LGA).

This plan does not cover legal roads and land managed by the Department of Conservation. Land held as airfields, drainage and utilities are also not included within this plan.

This plan needs to be read and reviewed in its entirety, as multiple policies may relate to a single item, (e.g. club buildings have policies under the Buildings section and also the Leases and Licenses section, and new buildings also need to consider the Development section of policies).

Waikato District Council Reserves

Council manages approximately 484 local reserves, spanning of 2,177 hectares. This land includes playgrounds, local town reserves, coastal settings, sports grounds and natural bush areas. All Waikato District Council’s actively managed reserves are listed in Appendix 1.

The Reserves Act 1977 provides the legal classification system for reserves held under the Act (Appendix 2). This identifies the primary purpose of the reserve and the statutory framework for managing the reserves. Because the classifications are high level, Waikato District reserves are also grouped into different management categories, which have been developed by the Recreation Aotearoa (Appendix 2). The categories include Civic space, Cultural heritage, Neighbourhood, Outdoor adventure, Nature, Public gardens, Recreation and ecological links,

and Sports and recreation. These reserve categories are compatible with the Reserves Act Classifications but provide a more detailed framework that recognises the more specific function and character of each reserve and assists with the planning and management, including the level of service applied to the reserves (e.g. a sports and recreation reserve has a high level of built infrastructure and level of maintenance, whereas a natural bush area has low levels of infrastructure and different maintenance activities).

Relationship with Other Council Documents and Legislation

The development and management of local reserves and the implementation of this plan is guided by a range of legislation, statutory and non-statutory policies and council plans and strategic documents.

Please note that nothing in this plan avoids the need for activities and development on reserves to comply with other relevant legislation. Applicants for a proposed activity may require separate regulatory approvals and consents, such as under the Resource Management Act 1991, Building Act 2004 and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

Reserves Act 1977

The Council has a responsibility as an administering body under the Reserves Act 1977, Section 41, to prepare management plans for the reserves and parks that it manages.

“The management plan shall provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection, and preservation, as the case may require, and, to the extent that the administering body's resources permit, the development, as appropriate, of the reserve for the purposes for which it is classified, and shall incorporate and ensure compliance with the principles set out...for a reserve of that classification.”

The development of this plan follows a reserve management planning process as detailed in Figure 1. The RMP process has a strong focus on public engagement, allowing the communities to shape the document. In accordance with the Reserves Act 1977, this management plan will remain under continuous review.

Where specific reserve management plans exist for a category or individual reserve, the policies in that RMP take precedence over the General Policies RMP.



Figure 1: RMP process and detailed steps in accordance with the Reserves Act (1977).

Bylaws and Policies

There are existing bylaws and standalone policies that apply to the use of Council land and may impact on user behaviour or the management of a reserve. Most bylaws simply require compliance with specified rules for the activity, for example a person may only exercise a dog off a leash in certain reserves or parts of a reserve. Other activities may require a prior approval, with the criteria and process for obtaining the approval set out in a bylaw or policy.

Bylaws and standalone policies take precedence over the General Policies RMP and where possible duplication of content has been avoided.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi - The Treaty of Waitangi

The Treaty of Waitangi is the founding document of New Zealand. The principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi are applied to the decision-making process and management of reserves in the district. Mana whenua continue to maintain a presence and relationship with their ancestral sites and landscapes of significance. This relationship also extends to the taonga, and sites where historic events occurred, often within the boundaries of the reserves.

Council actively maintain relationships with iwi within the district through established Joint Management Agreements and Memorandum of Understanding.

Structure of this Plan

This RMP sets out policy on which applies to all Council Reserves in the District.

The Plan is set out in five policy sections, where the reader will be able to find objectives and policies associated with each subject.

The five policy sections are:

Section 1 - Reserve Values

Section 2 - Development of Reserves

Section 3 - Use of Reserves

Section 4 - Authorisations and Approvals

Section 5 - Management of Reserves

The policy sections should ***be read as a whole***. This means that more than one objective and/or policy may be relevant in any given situation. Plan readers should therefore seek to identify all relevant objectives and policies relevant to an issue in the General Policies document and in the individual plan which includes that reserve (e.g. Sports Park RMP).

1. Reserve Values

1.1 Relationship with Mana Whenua

Objective

- A. To work in partnership with mana whenua to implement the principles of kaitiakitanga (guardianship) of reserves and recognise mana whenua's connection with the land

Policies

1. Work with mana whenua to understand their aspirations and priorities for Waikato District reserves
2. Integrate principles of kaitiakitanga into the planning and management of reserves
3. Recognise and support mana whenua tikanga, kawa, customs to access sites and gathering of resources
4. Identify, protect, and celebrate sites of taonga in accordance with mana whenua tikanga wishes

Explanation

Mana whenua are not considered key stakeholders but partners with how Council manages reserves and together we lean on the principles of kaitiakitanga. The values held by kaitiaki (guardians or protectors) include their environmental and spiritual ties to ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu (sacred areas) and other taonga (treasures), and the wellbeing of the community. Kaitiakitanga invites people to form and maintain relationships with the environment in which they live.

By nature of these principles, we will work together to address access to sites and resources to support cultural practices.

1.2 Relationships with Volunteers and Partnerships

Objective

- A. To encourage and facilitate volunteering activities on reserves that align with the policies of this plan and support resource efficiencies resulting in mutual benefits for our communities and the reserves themselves

Policies

1. Create and maintain relationships with volunteer groups. Volunteering activities on reserves require Council authorisation and the assessment of proposals will be subject to Council agreement.

2. Volunteer activities shall be formalised under a formal Council agreement.
Appropriate roles and responsibilities to be defined in partnership with Council
3. All volunteer groups must meet and comply with health and safety requirements relative to the nature of the work they are undertaking

Explanation

Some partnerships may be simple arrangements between the Council and one community partner/ group. In many cases, Council provides most of the financial investment in the form of land, buildings or funding, and the partner/group providing volunteer know-how, physical work, networks, and programming expertise.

Other partnership arrangements may be large and complex, with multiple investors sharing the capital development costs of a new facility, and professional operators playing a role alongside community partners. The Council will consider a wide range of partnership arrangements, within broad parameters. The importance of partnership is not the size of the group but has the skills to successfully and sustainably meet the community's needs. Given the variety of potential scenarios, it is important that our Council processes can adapt to suit.

1.3 Cultural and Historic Heritage

Objectives

- A. To identify, protect and manage significant historic and cultural heritage for its intrinsic value, for the enjoyment and education of reserve users
- B. To ensure the design and use of reserves recognises and celebrates the district's historic and cultural heritage

Policies

1. Ensure areas of cultural significance or heritage value located on a reserve are protected, managed, and conserved in proportion to their significance and the level of threat posed to them, in accordance with:
 - a. Any preference of mana whenua and tikanga (protocols)
 - b. Legislation, such as the Reserves Act, Resource Management Act 1991 and the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 (NZHPT 2014)
 - c. Council statutory and non-statutory policy such as the District Plan
 - d. Any heritage conservation plans
2. Any development work carried out on or adjacent to historic structures shall be sympathetic to their historical context
3. Encourage public appreciation and enjoyment of historic and cultural heritage in reserves through education, interpretation, cultural markers, public art, and opportunities for community participation

4. Where kōiwi (remains) or artifacts of cultural or historic value are discovered during reserve operations or development, mana whenua will be consulted in the first instance and an accidental discovery protocol will be followed

Explanation

It is important to recognise and retain heritage features, which may include historic structures and archaeological sites. Such sites provide physical evidence of historical events and add to the depth of experience for visitors and local residents when they visit the reserves.

The NZHPT (2014) provides legal protection for all pre-1900 archaeological sites (including recorded and non-recorded) and those post 1900 sites gazetted for protection under the Act. An archaeological authority from Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga is required to modify or destroy any archaeological site. Any site where there may be an archaeological interest will require that Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga is notified and an archaeological assessment completed along with archaeological authority being obtained before any works can commence. Known sites may have archaeological site information detailing the importance and management of the site.

1.4 Sustainability

1.4.1 Climate Change, Fire Risk and Natural Hazards

Objectives

- A. To manage reserves in a way that minimises and mitigates the impact of climate change
- B. To improve the resilience of reserves by acknowledging and adapting to the effects of climate change, flooding and impacts of natural hazards
- C. To manage significant risks from natural hazards to reserve users and assets in accordance with local, regional, and national policy
- D. To prevent and reduce risk of fire damage on reserves by effective operations and visitor management of fire risks

Policies

1. Adapt to climate change impacts and coastal hazards including:
 - a. Promoting as a general policy, a managed retreat from erosion zones and coastal areas that are increasingly inundated
 - b. When structures affected by coastal hazards fail or when other trigger points are reached, in general prefer to move them to less vulnerable sites or remove entirely rather than repair them
 - c. Follow best practice guidance for hazards risk management
 - d. Decision making in response to the impact of coastal hazards or land instability to a reserve or reserve infrastructure will be consistent with a national, regional, or Council policy or site-specific hazard management plan

2. Avoid and mitigate the impact of climate change and coastal erosion by:
 - a. Undertaking restoration and planting programmes where appropriate
 - b. Promoting soft engineering solutions to retain a natural beach buffer and to strengthen natural features (such as salt marshes or other natural flood zones, beaches, and dunes) in preference to using hard protection structures to manage natural hazards
 - c. Continuing to maintain and create natural dune ecosystems to help stabilise them and slow down the rate of erosion
3. Stormwater, flooding, and erosion
 - a. Manage stormwater runoff and flooding through soft engineering including but not limited to grass swales, riparian plantings, wetland holding areas riparian planting of ecologically appropriate native species
 - b. Require the siting of facilities and planting on reserves to have regard for avoiding natural hazard threats, including flooding and erosion
 - c. Avoiding earthworks near streams
 - d. Planting steep slopes to prevent erosion and sedimentation
4. Fire management
 - a. Reduce fire risk around public designated picnic sites, tracks, and heritage buildings and structures by appropriate vegetation management, including species selection of any future plantings in the surrounding area
 - b. Only permit the use of public open fires, including portable barbeques using solid fuel, in public amenity picnic areas, and where the fire is permitted by controls implemented through the Fire and Emergency Act 2017
 - c. Support Fire and Emergency New Zealand through any prohibition or restrictions and any associated processes to manage a fire season

Explanation

In order to manage the use, protection and development of reserves across the district, Council needs to be aware of natural hazards and climate change, and their potential impact on the use and safety of public reserves. Flooding, coastal inundation, and erosion/land instability are the main climate change hazards that can occur in areas of the Waikato District that are likely to impact on reserves.

Risks from natural hazards are expected to increase as a result of climate change, with sea levels rising and an increase in the frequency and severity of storms.

Public demand for hard erosion protection works such as seawalls or groynes is often high when harbour/coastal processes affect private property, public infrastructure, or reserves. While hard erosion protection works can in some cases shield property, they can have significant adverse effects on harbour/coastal processes and natural features (e.g. increasing erosion further in or along the harbour/coast) and on natural character, amenity values and public access to and along coastal margins.

Erosion protection works can cause coastal (including harbour) edge degradation which can threaten coastal habitats and ecosystems. There is no one solution that suits all sites where coastal edge erosion is occurring.

Climate change is creating changes to natural physical processes, ecosystems and habitats on many of the local reserves. Altered weather patterns may have negative impacts such as an increase in plant and animal pests and the spread of pathogens. It could also change recreational access to areas if the ground is saturated for longer periods.

Stormwater assets and recreational assets are frequently developed together to provide a dual amenity and function for a new subdivision. The primary purpose of the space must be clearly defined at the time of development. Seasonally there may be an adverse effect of stormwater on recreational assets resulting in a lowered level of service (e.g. flooding on walkways).

All fires, whether lit naturally, accidentally, or deliberately can pose a risk to reserve visitors, native vegetation, species, historic places, reserve assets and adjoining property. The risk of fire is likely to increase as an impact of climate change, where the climate is likely to become hotter and drier.

Council will take the approach of only allowing open fires in purpose built solid fuel barbeques or fire pits. Reserve users are not allowed to make fires in other places, including uncontrolled settings such as beaches or dunes. Fireworks are to be restricted to particular public events and conditions for the activity approved by Council. No private informal displays permitted. No fires will be permitted when a prohibited fire season has been declared by Fire and Emergency New Zealand.

Council will manage climate change by focussing on mitigation and adaptation through the Waikato District Council Climate Response and Resilience Action Plan Framework (2020).

1.4.2 Biodiversity

Objectives

- A. To protect, maintain and enhance the long-term viability and resilience of native species, habitats, and ecosystems on reserves
- B. To inspire and encourage people to be actively engaged in caring for natural values on reserves

Policies

1. Maintain restoration and ecological enhancement programmes on the district's reserves, and giving priority to:
 - a. Deliver biodiversity programmes with a focus on pest animal and plant management as required by the Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan (and any subsequent updated plan) as resources allow
 - b. The restoration and enhancement of natural value reserves for the benefit of the community and the environment

- c. Ensuring, where practical, that natural value reserves are accessible to the community and well connected to wider open space and trail networks
 - d. Continuing to foster enduring relationships with key partners to support the ongoing enhancement of natural value reserves and agreed regional priorities such as site led biocontrol and pest management programmes, collaboration efforts with Waikato Regional Council, Waikato RiverCare, and other relevant management agencies or volunteer groups to co-ordinate and compliment efforts across the Waikato
2. Any plantings undertaken on reserves will:
 - a. Be consistent with the overall character and function of the reserve
 - b. Utilise species appropriate to the site
 - c. Generally, be indigenous and sourced from the same ecological district
 - d. Generally, be aimed at creating native species dominated, self-sustaining habitats over time
 - e. Will give regard to retaining and enhancing significant views from the reserve, without loss of existing habitat
 - f. Landscaping will be designed for low on-going maintenance
 3. Tree maintenance will take account of:
 - a. Naturally occurring native trees on reserve land will not be pruned or removed to create or maintain private views
 - b. Addressed appropriately to manage health and safety risks
 - c. Where possible, pruned to allow for natural habitat to remain for native species
 4. Consideration may be given to the planting of exotic species¹ where there is:
 - a. A desire for a commemorative or symbolic exotic species for a recognised individual or group
 - b. A need for a fast-growing species to control erosion
 - c. The advantage of fruit or specimen feature trees or hedging
 - d. Low maintenance and resilient species for amenity purposes
 - e. Replacement plants that are consistent with existing vegetation species
 5. Where practicable foster the resilience of native species, habitats, and ecosystems to the adverse effects of unpredictable events, such as climate change or new incursions of pests or pathogens, through an adaptive management response, on a case-by-case basis

Explanation

The Council reserves contain a wide range of the significant biodiversity and ecosystems. These natural resources are considered to be living taonga by mana whenua.

¹ Exotic species will not include any species identified in the Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan 2021-2031 or considered to be an ecological weed threat.

The Reserves Act requires that indigenous biodiversity present on a reserve is managed and protected in a way that is compatible with the principal or primary purpose of the reserve.

The management of the reserves provides opportunities to demonstrate best environmental practice and sustainability to the local community, both in the day-to-day management of reserves and in specific conservation projects. This includes revegetation to mitigate the impacts of climate change and allow for carbon sequestration.

Volunteers currently play a role in delivering biodiversity outcomes and utilise their efforts for educational opportunities. Volunteering and education activities are a great way to engage the next generation of environmentally minded people.

Indigenous biodiversity and ecosystem functions can be significantly threatened by some introduced plants and animals. The Waikato District provides a favourable climate for many introduced species and has a high number of introduced plants that have naturalised in the area. It is anticipated that climate change is likely to increase the number and extent of invasive plants, invertebrates, such as wasps, and pathogen incursions like myrtle rust in the future.

The threat of pathogens, such as kauri dieback and myrtle rust, spreading through the Waikato District may need to be actively managed in the near future. In some circumstances recreational access may need to be restricted through the closure of tracks, or quarantining zones or rāhui to protect areas within reserves to contain areas of infection to prevent the spread of disease.

1.4.3 Sustainable Practices

Objective

- A. To incorporate sustainable practices into the provision, management, and development of reserves

Policies

1. Ensure that sustainable management practices are taken into account in the design, operation, maintenance and development of the reserves across the Waikato District. This may include:
 - a. Considering the life cycle of products used for reserve development and maintenance
 - b. Considering renewable and reusable materials in reserve design elements
 - c. Considering low energy efficient devices for new or replacement services
 - d. Low impact design practises for stormwater management
 - e. Conservation and adaptive re-use of all forms of heritage items including buildings, structures, and fixtures such as pathways, trees, streetscapes, and paving, where appropriate
2. Facilitate sustainable transport options to reserves by incorporating supporting infrastructure

Explanation

The Council is committed to the principles of creating a sustainable community and environment. Council will endeavour to incorporate sustainable practices into both the provision of reserves within the district, and to their management and development where resources permit.

Sustainability is a process of ensuring all resources are used and managed for a balance of environmental, social, cultural, and economic wellbeing. It means meeting the needs of today without adversely impacting the needs of future generations.

There is a suite of sustainable practises that can be employed on reserves from choosing materials for reserve developments that have greater longevity to decrease maintenance and increase the life of assets to utilising environmentally friendly technologies to reduce energy costs.

Council can also encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport by including infrastructure such as bike parking into reserve designs. This technology will evolve over time and Council needs to keep abreast of new innovations in this space.

2. Development of Reserves

2.1 General Reserve Development

Objective

- A. Development is aligned with the reserve's purpose and the communities' needs without significant or ongoing adverse effects on other reserve users, adjoining property owners or the reserve itself

Policies

1. Reserve development shall occur through integration of the following:
 - a. The classification status of the reserve and the reserve category
 - b. Outcomes and recommendations of design guidelines, concept plans and /or relevant specialist assessments
 - c. The impact the proposed development has on existing reserve values, including the natural, cultural, landscape and open space characteristics of the reserve
 - d. Minimising the opportunities for vandalism
 - e. Consider crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) principles
 - f. Universal design and how people of all ages and abilities use, access, and enjoy the reserve
2. Council may develop a concept plan to guide development of a reserve where this is not sufficient design detailed in an RMP

3. Council will consult the community over any major development² of a reserve, including targeted engagement with key user groups in the design and development of any concept plans

Explanation

Reserve development can protect and enhance the landscape and natural values, assist with activating a reserve and enhance community appreciation and enjoyment of the reserve. This covers many aspects, from designing and developing reserves in new subdivisions to upgrading existing reserves.

Council needs to ensure that reserves are developed to meet the community's aspirations and deliver the types of recreational experiences they are seeking whilst ensuring the natural values of the reserve are retained and potentially enhanced. For a number of key reserves across the district this will include the future development of a concept plan that will provide a more detailed guide as to how the development of the reserve will be co-ordinated.

2.2 Access and Parking

Objectives

- A. To provide safe, logical, and adequate access to and through reserves and car parks for vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians whilst minimising impact on users, facilities, amenity values, and the general character of the reserve
- B. Ensure access to reserves is free of barriers for all members of the community
- C. Manage safety risks and visitor experience with temporary reserve closure where necessary

Policies

1. Provide and maintain safe and accessible routes to and through reserves and facilities, following CPTED principles
2. Allow for emergency and service vehicle access to reserves for operational purposes
3. Access to a reserve or area of a reserve may be temporarily restricted for a specified time³ where:
 - a. A rāhui is in place
 - b. Health and safety risk identified
 - c. Maintenance or remedial works are being carried out

² As defined in the Waikato District Council Significance and Engagement Policy (2020)

³ Reserve closures for temporary periods of time may only require public notification as permitted under the Reserves Act 1977

- d. An activity or event has been granted the right to restrict public access as part of its conditions of authorisation
 - e. There are unfavourable ground conditions or a biodiversity risk
 - f. Limiting vehicle access at night for security purposes
 - g. An isolated event or activity where the impact may have a detrimental impact to reserve visitors
4. When developing public spaces including parking and access roads, consider the general reserve development policies outlined in other sections of this plan, and the following:
- a. Where there is a District Plan or resource consent condition or a proven requirement directly related to the use of the reserve
 - b. Consider options to encourage passive transport (e.g. cycling) into and through a reserve
 - c. It is both physically and financially feasible to provide parking facilities
 - d. Locate parking closest to the site boundary and adjoining roads to minimise the loss of usable recreation space
 - e. Incorporating water sensitive design to reduce stormwater runoff and contaminants entering the stormwater system
 - f. Consider appropriate signage and speed calming techniques, (e.g. speed bumps), to slow vehicle movements through parks, where required
 - g. Volume of parking should consider regular daily usage (as oppose to peak parking)

Explanation

Public access to and through reserve areas is an essential aspect of reserve management. It enhances reserve use for the enjoyment and the benefit for residents with attractive connections throughout townships. Pedestrian access and circulation within a reserve needs to be coherent, appropriate to the site and safe. It also needs to allow access to the variety of facilities that are located within reserves. It is important that access points are clear and where applicable, clearly define a direct route through a reserve to makes users feel comfortable. Reserves carparks are not exclusive to a certain user group.

As with buildings, car parks and vehicle access impact on the usability of reserves by taking up space which would otherwise be available for other reserve activities. In addition, the hard surfaces (from access roads and car parks) have the potential to create adverse environmental effects, such as polluted stormwater runoff. Council intends to provide car parking that is relevant to the reserve's purpose, location, and likely demand during non-peak use of the reserve, and in accordance with District Plan Rules.

2.3 Buildings and Other Structures

Objectives

- A. To ensure the provision and maintenance of buildings and other structures necessary to facilitate public recreational use and enjoyment of the reserve is of a condition, design and scale suited to the reserve environment
- B. To ensure buildings or structures that are of benefit to reserve users are well utilised

Policies

1. In proposing to locate a new building or structure on a reserve (by Council or by others), or when considering proposals for the extension or upgrade of an existing building or structure, in addition to the General Reserve Development section the following shall be considered:
 - a. The Reserves Act classification of the land and the allocated reserve category and whether the purpose is compatible with the reserve's use and function
 - b. The need for the building or structure to be located on reserve land, considering evaluation of other sites, the potential to co-locate the activity in an existing building, to adapt an existing building and the opportunity to cluster buildings (hubbing) if a separate building is required
 - c. The scale of the proposed building or structure in relation to the reserve and its potential impact on foreseeable use of the reserve for outdoor recreation, the amenity of the reserve and the conservation of open space, views, significant vegetation, and significant landscape features
 - d. The siting, design, materials and colour of the proposed building or structure
 - e. The potential impacts generated by ancillary activities used to provide ongoing operational funding
 - f. The effects of providing access to, parking and service areas for the proposed building or structure
 - g. The ability, including the financial position, of the applicant to construct and maintain the building and operate the proposed activity
 - h. Consent requirements in accordance with the district plan
2. Where a building or other structure is no longer required by an occupier or Council, the following steps will be undertaken:
 - a. The occupier will be required to find a new approved occupier or remove the building or structure from the reserve
 - b. If the occupier cannot either find a new suitable occupier or remove the building or structure, then Council will take reasonable efforts to find a new suitable occupier or use for the building
 - c. If no suitable occupier or use can be found, Council will consider moving the building or structure
 - d. If no suitable occupier can be found and the building or structure cannot be relocated and there is no reasonably foreseeable use for the building or structure then it will be either tendered to be removed, or demolished
 - e. Where Council does not own the building, feasible costs associated with removal or demolition of the building and or structure and reinstatement of the reserve to Council's satisfaction shall be charged to the owner

Explanation

Sporting and community groups often request new buildings or facilities to be located on reserves. Well designed, sited, and integrated buildings and facilities can complement the reserves character and aesthetic values, while also enhancing the public's use and enjoyment of them.

This policy seeks to ensure that buildings and structures do not compromise the open space values of the reserve unless the provision of buildings and structures supports the use and enjoyment of the reserve.

Council owned buildings and structures on reserves assist in their day-to-day maintenance and management, such as equipment storage and public amenities (change/toilet facilities). These buildings will continue to be maintained to ensure these do not impact on the amenity or use of the reserve.

Changes in levels of population and participation sometimes result in sports clubs and groups dissolving, amalgamating, or falling into recess. A consequence of this is the abandonment of facilities such as playing courts, practice nets, clubrooms etc. Where a facility is not being used for its intended purpose Council can undertake a variety of options to seek a new occupier or consider removing the facility from the reserve land.

Council recognises the limited resources of community groups occupying reserves and notes some existing reserve facilities could sustain higher levels of use, and the sharing of such facilities would prevent unnecessary duplication and cost. Pre-approved sub-letting (or hubbing situations) of facilities by lessees can generate revenue and spread the load of paying for overheads such as power. Such uses must however be consistent with the purposes for which the reserve is held.

2.4 Furniture

Objectives

- A. To provide sufficient reserve furniture to facilitate public use and enjoyment of the outdoor recreational environment
- B. To ensure a coordinated and consistent approach to the design, selection, and placement of all reserve furniture

Policies

1. Consider installing furniture where there is a demonstrated need and it is appropriate to the functional use and purpose of the reserve, in accordance with Council's levels of service
2. Ensure that all new or replacement furniture is of an approved and environmentally practical design or style
3. The Council may remove furniture where the condition of the furniture is below an acceptable standard, where the furniture is not in keeping with the reserve, or where there is no longer a demonstrated need

Explanation

The provision of reserve furniture such as seating, picnic tables, barbeques, drinking fountains, and litter bins may enhance the usability of a reserve by supporting a variety of activities, encouraging people to gather within reserves and stay longer. It may also play an important role in public health.

It is important to manage reserve furniture and take the time to consider its installation, in accordance with the reserves purpose and use. If unmanaged, reserve furniture can add to visual clutter and detract from landscape and amenity values. Unmanaged reserve furniture can also become an ongoing maintenance burden to Council and the community.

Some reserve users may wish to commemorate loved ones who have had a connection to a reserve location. Where commemorative assets are proposed, Council will assess each application against the Memorials, Plaques, and Monuments Policy.

2.5 Lighting

Objective

- A. To provide lighting to facilitate evening or early morning use and access where appropriate

Policies

1. Council provision of lighting in a reserve, including along cycle and pedestrian paths will consider:
 - a. The use and purpose of the reserve
 - b. Whether there is a clear public benefit
 - c. Whether it supports the principles of CPTED
 - d. Lighting that is energy efficient (e.g. moving towards LED lighting)
2. Installation of exterior lighting by reserve occupiers, such as sports clubs, is subject to the approval of the Council. Lighting must at all times meet the relevant electrical safety standards, District Plan requirements and comply with the policies of this plan.
3. Hours of operation of lights shall be limited to those hours approved by the Council and District Plan. The use of adaptive lighting controls or light suppression techniques will be required to limit the hours or intensity of light.

Explanation

Lighting is sometimes required to improve the safety and functionality of reserves, to extend the period by which the reserve can be used, or to enhance the amenity of a reserve.

Good lighting design can reduce the impact of lighting on neighbours and the environment and significantly enhance the safety, use and appearance of reserves. Likewise, poor lighting

design and installation can have negative effects for neighbours and the environment. Care must be taken with flood lighting and security lighting.

Consideration of new lighting will be assessed in accordance with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles. In some instances, perceived or real safety issues cannot be addressed by lighting alone. In these cases, lighting may encourage people to enter a reserve, where it may be unsafe to do so.

Where a user group uses lighting for a particular purpose (e.g. sports lighting), the cost of installation and ongoing supply charges may be undertaken by the user group.

2.6 Play Facilities

Objective

- A. The reserve network has a diverse range of enjoyable, stimulating, and safe play opportunities for all ages and abilities

Policies

1. Enhance and develop play facilities to reflect community demand, provide quality play outcomes and a cohesive network of designated play spaces for each urban locality
2. All new play equipment and associated safety surfaces and all renewal of play areas shall be designed, constructed, and maintained to conform to New Zealand standards for playground equipment and surfaces
3. Require that any proposal to upgrade or locate a new play space in a reserve consider the following:
 - a. The appropriateness of the play space in terms of the current and future needs of the local community
 - b. Existing play space provision, to identify gaps or avoid duplication and to ensure a variety of play opportunities are easily accessible, in accordance with Council's Levels of Service for play provision
 - c. Design for all ages and abilities and consider the principals of universal design
 - d. Urban design standards (including CPTED principles)
 - e. Appropriately located to maximise existing site features, enable passive surveillance, and reduce negative effects or site hazards
 - f. The provision of sun and shelter (for those playing and supervising)
 - g. Opportunities to incorporate artworks, or to introduce or retain natural play elements and landscape features
4. Explore opportunities to develop spaces and facilities that engage youth (beyond basketball courts and skateparks) across the reserve network to cater for varying youth interests based on consultation with youth

5. Remain flexible to adopt new play technology or concepts that are financially supported and beneficial for recreation

Explanation

Reserves provide important open space areas for children and teenagers to play, whether that is through using natural features, or through the provision of formal playgrounds, skate parks and bike parks.

Play facilities will be developed and maintained in accordance with the Councils guidelines and New Zealand's playground standards. Where possible universal design will be taken into account which is "the design of products and environments to be useable by all people to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaption or specialised design."

'Play' has a broad definition with many concepts that help facilitate play. Technology and concepts such as 'nature play' and 'play-on-the-way' can be affordable to implement and make a positive difference to how our community interact with their open spaces. It is important that our reserves continue to evolve, where practical, to cater for all play options.

2.7 Public Art

Objective

- A. To allow the installation of public art within reserves where appropriate

Policies

1. Permanent public art may only be installed in reserves with the formal approval of the Council and any required consents
2. Include opportunities to engage with mana whenua and Māori artists to provide cultural pieces on reserves, such as whakairo or pouwhenua
3. The location of any public art installation must be in keeping with the scale and values of the reserve, and it must not unduly impact on the cost of reserve maintenance and operational activities or detract from reserve use

Explanation

Public art is one of the more visible and accessible forms of art. Some forms of public art, such as permanent installations like paintings, sculptures, or carving can often be best appreciated if located within reserves. However public art can be controversial, and if located in the wrong place, can conflict with the primary purpose of the reserve.

Council may require that any public art be accompanied by a landscape assessment, detailing how the public art will fit within the proposed setting. Art may also be received as a gift to the community. In this scenario, a written agreement will be established with Council and the 'gift giver' on the acceptance or decline and suitable location of the art piece.

2.8 Signage

Objectives

- A. To provide sufficient signs to facilitate public use, heritage and site appreciation, and enjoyment of the outdoor recreational environment
- B. To control the display of advertising and sponsorship signs on reserves

Policies

1. All signs located within reserves will comply with Council's signage guidelines to ensure consistent sign branding, styles, and information throughout the district
2. Signs will generally be grouped or clustered within a reserve to avoid visual clutter and to assist visitors to easily access all relevant information
3. Provide directional and way-finding signage within reserves for suitable to all visitors
4. All signs within reserves will be subject to the provisions of the District Plan
5. Reserve occupiers wishing to erect signs on buildings or facilities they occupy will require approval from Council and be responsible for obtaining all relevant statutory consents and meeting the costs of producing, erecting, maintaining, and replacing signs relating to their activity
6. No commercial signs will be permitted on reserves except with the particular approval of Council (including acknowledging sponsorship). Council may permit advertising signs on recreation reserves developed as sports grounds where these will not detract from the character and amenity of the reserve or adversely affect neighbours. The cost of such signs, any associated resource consents, and the regular maintenance of any such sign will be borne by the advertiser.
7. Council may permit community notice boards on recreation reserves in association with sports grounds and/or public facilities where these signs will not detract from the character and amenity of the reserve or adversely affect neighbours
8. Council retains the right to request the removal of and/or to remove any inappropriate, poorly located or maintained, or obsolete signs
9. On-site interpretation will be utilised to:
 - a. Contribute to people's understanding and appreciation of the reserve's values, history, or significant features
 - b. Increase awareness of mana whenua's role as kaitiaki and their connection to a reserve
 - c. Raise awareness of environmental issues, community-led activity, or restoration programmes

Explanation

Signs are necessary to identify reserves, to assist access and orientation within reserves, to encourage the appropriate use of reserves and to provide for the safety of reserve users. Signs provide an opportunity for Council to 'brand' public land and clearly identify public resources. However, signs can individually or cumulatively detract from the amenity of a reserve and need to be designed, located, and maintained to avoid visual clutter.

Interpretive material on reserves can enhance the visitor experience by increasing awareness of a reserve's history and special features and inspire visitors to explore the reserve. This can be achieved in several formats, such as, through signs, displays, audio visuals, activation, and public art, which can also contribute to the unique character of an area.

The District Plan limits the type, location, and size of signs on reserves (and elsewhere), including commercial signs. Utility warning signage is allowed where it informs the public with regards to any health and safety requirements. Community Notice Boards are designed for the advertising of local events, small business, non-profit groups or other information pertaining to the local community they're posted in. These will be managed by a relevant local committee.

3. Use of Reserves

3.1 General Use of Reserves

Objective

- A. To enable recreational use and enjoyment of local reserves that does not unduly compromise the reserve's values or impact other reserve users

Policies

1. Provide for and manage the impacts of recreational use through a range of mechanisms, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Identifying the range of recreational opportunities sought from the community through the reserve classification and category
 - b. Managing recreational use on a network wide basis, recognising not all opportunities can be provided in every reserve
 - c. Utilising bylaws or codes of conduct to set parameters or conditions on activities
 - d. Utilising council's reserve booking system to manage the allocation of spaces in reserves
 - e. Requiring the authorisation of activities that have the potential to impact the reserve values or other reserve users
2. Enable recreational use and enjoyment of reserves through:
 - a. Responding to shifts and changes in demand for recreational activities
 - b. activating reserves through events, programmes and other initiatives including authorised activities
 - c. Developing or naturalising reserves to increase their resilience and capacity

- d. Promoting opportunities that may broaden reserves user's experiences, such as public art and interpretation
- e. Recognising the value of reserves in providing respite

Explanation

Reserves are provided for the public's general use and enjoyment. They cater for a wide range of recreational opportunities from informal activities such as walking and picnicking to highly organised activities such as sporting events.

All recreational activity needs to be managed in a way which minimises the impact on reserve values and is consistent with the reserve classification (where the reserve is held under the Reserves Act). Most everyday activities on reserves are allowed as of right. However, some activities on reserves that have the potential to impact either the environment or other reserve users, or require the temporary allocation of space, may be allowed subject to meeting conditions. These may be by way of a bylaw, bond, or a code of conduct.

All activities are subject to the controls of the Waikato District Plan and Council's other policies and bylaws

Some activities will require specific permission or authorisation (refer to Section 4). Everyday activities that are permitted without the need for approval from the council, are those that:

- Are informal or casual in nature and are consistent with the values of the reserve, such as walking, relaxing, picnicking and the like; or
- Meet conditions in a bylaw or code of conduct to avoid any potential impact on either the environment or other reserve users, such as dog walking
- Are not identified in this plan or by the Reserves Act as requiring authorisation or regulated in a bylaw, and do not unduly interfere with the use and enjoyment of other users of the reserve

3.2 Drones / Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) and Model Aircraft

Objective

- A. Allow for the flying of recreational drone flying with parameters to prevent impacts on other reserve users including privacy and nuisance

Policies

1. Flying will be a permitted activity provided that it aligns with the code of conduct (refer to Council website⁴) and Civil Aviation Authority rules
2. Remotely piloted aircraft systems, such as drones, are permitted to fly over council reserves, except for playgrounds, cemeteries, as well as cultural and historical reserves

⁴ Editors Note: The code of conduct for drones is current being drafted and will be made available on the Waikato District Council website prior to the adoption of the General Policies Reserve Management Plan being finalised.

Explanation

Model aircraft enthusiasts sometimes use reserves for the operation of their aircraft. This can either be for personal recreational use or for club and competition activity such as at the Tuakau Domain.

The recreational and commercial use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) is becoming more common place and will no doubt increase as technology improves and UAV reduce in cost.

While drones and UAV use has similar impacts to those of model aircraft with respect to noise and potential for injury, the frequent inclusion of on-board cameras, the technology is rising as a new recreational activity. Utility providers are also using drones more often to check their activities or project development.

The Council has issued a code of conduct (located on the website⁴) which users must adhere to receive permission to operate from a reserve. Any activity that does not follow the code of conduct must be applied to Council, in writing. Further information is available on the Council website.

3.3 Multi-use and activation of locations

Objective

- A. To encourage the health and wellbeing of communities through the provision of multi-use resources and linkages

Policy

1. Investigate opportunities to create recreation opportunities within and on the way to reserves across the district to encourage people of all ages and abilities to be active

Explanation

There is plenty of research that testifies to the benefits of physical activity on personal well-being. Council will support communities to be active in a range of ways by providing and promoting recreational spaces to cater for all abilities. To support this work Council will also create and maintain strategy and policy documents to guide development and decision making.

4. Authorisations and Approvals

4.1 Approvals framework

Objective

- A. To ensure a consistent approach is taken to assessing proposals requiring authorisation in accordance with any legislation, bylaw or policy and is consistent with the primary purpose of the reserve

Policies

1. Ensure a consistent approach is taken to assessing proposed activities requiring authorisation, including:
 - a. Compatibility with the reserve classification, if applicable (defined under the Reserves Act)
 - b. Compatibility with the reserve category and reserve specific information, values and development plans
 - c. Consideration of the capacity of the reserve to accommodate the activity, the current use of the reserve and all potential impacts on the environment and other reserve users

Explanation

The authorisation and approvals acknowledge that some activities or requests may not be detailed specifically by a section, objective, or policy. The approvals framework allows for consistency to approach and decision making on items not specifically detailed. The purpose of authorisation is to ensure impacts on the reserve and its users are considered, managed, and a consistent and balanced approach is taken to assessing proposals to ensure the reserve is protected.

Some people or groups will want to use reserve space for activities that might have a lasting impact on the reserve, or that might prevent others from also using the reserve. Under these circumstances people will need to apply for a specific permission or 'authorisation' to use the reserve. Additionally, throughout the timeframe of this plan, new activities may arise which have not been addressed within this plan, other council policies, nor any bylaws. This provides a framework for considering their authorisation.

4.2 Occupation Agreements

The following objectives apply to all sub-categories of Occupational Agreements

Objectives

- A. To formalise the current occupation of reserves for approved uses and facilities by the granting of occupation agreements where users can demonstrate the sustainability of their occupation and it is consistent with the reserve purpose
- B. To protect reserve primary purpose and values by minimising the number of buildings, easements, and utilities on reserves
- C. To ensure adequate compensation is provided to remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of all private infrastructure (e.g. utility, stormwater discharge, accessways) and including private underground facilities on reserves
- D. To require compensation for all temporary or permanent effects on reserve values caused by occupation agreements

- E. To permit reasonable access to holder of easements for the inspection and maintenance of their assets and networks on or across reserves
- F. Consideration of applications of an occupation agreement will address requirements for minimal impact and/or beneficial services for reserve users

4.2.1 Leases

Policies

1. Any exclusive use of reserves, including buildings, will be subject to a lease
2. Land may be leased to groups and organisations for the following purposes:
 - 2.1 The construction of sports facilities and associated buildings at the group's or organisation's expense.
 - 2.2 The construction of buildings and other structures that increase or improve the use of the reserve for recreation at the group's or organisation's expense.
 - 2.3 The occupation of Council owned buildings on reserves where it is prudent for the management of the building and community access to the building.

Provided that:

- 2.4 The proposed activities cannot satisfactorily take place in existing facilities (including those occupied by other reserve users), or elsewhere in the locality
3. Where required, existing leases will be renegotiated. In cases where they do not comply with the policies of the Management Plan or, in the case of land that is subject to the Reserves Act 1977, with the requirements of the Act, the occupation may terminate at the end of the current lease and the lessee improvements removed
4. Where users have occupied reserves without formal leases or where previous leases have expired, Council will review the use, sustainability and suitability of the occupation prior to issuing a new occupancy agreement. Council may decline issuing a new lease where the use is insufficient or the sustainability or suitability of an occupation cannot be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Council and the improvements removed from the reserve
5. Leases of Reserve Land shall incorporate the appropriate provisions of the Reserves Act 1977, and shall refer to the this Management Plan
6. Unless otherwise agreed to, the maintenance of buildings such as clubrooms and associated facilities are the responsibility of individual clubs and organisations. These buildings will be maintained to a high degree of visual amenity

determined by Council staff. Council will not provide compensation for improvements at the termination of a lease/licence. Where an occupation agreement has expired or been terminated, Council will retain the right to:

- a. Require the occupier to remove or dispose of any facility they are responsible for, at the occupier's expense, in line with their occupation agreement and the First Schedule of the Reserves Act 1977. Council will retain the right to remove the facility and on-charge the costs of removal and disposal, or
 - b. Council may instead allocate use of the facility to other users within the community and no compensation for facilities will be payable in this instance
7. The notification of proposed leases within publicly notified management plans shall serve as public notice for the purposes of the Reserves Act 1977
 8. All outgoing costs associated with leases and other agreements are the responsibility of the lessee or holder of the agreement
 9. Rents will be payable on all leases, in accordance with current Council policy. Rents for approved users (e.g. voluntary recreation facilities, approved community users) will be set at an agreed level. Other rents (e.g. commercial use, residential tenancies) will be based on 'market' levels.

Explanation

The leasing provisions of the Reserves Act 1977 emphasise the retention of open space and the public accountability of park management. On all reserves, leases must be drawn up subject to the relevant provisions of the Reserves Act 1977.

The leasing of reserves to a specific entity restricts the uses to which it can be put and usually limits use of the land by the general public. The needs of the local community should take precedence over the wishes of particular organisations. Unnecessary duplication of facilities, particularly among organisations that are active for only part of the year, should be avoided.

For sports clubs, it is preferred that only clubroom building footprints are leased as appose to a ground lease for a larger area of a reserve for exclusive use.

4.2.2 Licences

Policies

1. Licences may be granted subject to an assessment on likely impacts of existing reserve users and the likely benefits of the proposed activity in terms of recreation and reserve promotion or use
2. Applications for licences will need to be made in writing
3. Licences will include provision for public access (subject to conditions) where this is appropriate and desirable

4. A fee may be charged for a licence. Council may charge a fee other than a market cost for approved recreational or management purposes
5. It shall be a condition of all licences negotiated that Council may, before expiry, cancel all or part of the tenancy at one month's notice, should the land be required for recreational use or if the licensee fails to meet the conditions of the licence
6. It shall be a condition of every licence that Council will not compensate occupiers for improvements upon termination of the agreement
7. All licences shall include a condition providing adequate safeguards to prevent the destruction of or damage to any natural, scenic, historic, cultural, archaeological, geological, or other scientific features or indigenous flora and fauna

Explanation

Licence to occupy grants the non-exclusive right to use a park for a specific purpose.

Licences for commercial activities such as events, entertainment, street trading, vending, filming, commercial photography, product launches, personal training etc. may be granted subject to an assessment on likely impacts of existing reserve users and the likely benefits of the proposed activity in terms of recreation and reserve promotion or use.

The Reserves Act 1977 permits the granting of licences for communication stations and any works connected with the station.

Such agreements shall include a condition providing adequate safeguards to prevent the destruction of or damage to any natural, scenic, historic, cultural, archaeological, geological, or other scientific features or indigenous flora and fauna.

4.2.3 Easement

Policies

1. Applications for infrastructure (e.g. pipes, cabling, discharge or drainage rights) must be made in writing and contain the following information:
 - 1.1 A statement of alternative infrastructure location or discharge options and their costs
 - 1.2 Discussion on why these alternative options cannot be used
 - 1.3 Evidence that the infrastructure will not detract from the purpose of the park
 - 1.4 A diagram of the proposed works and a survey
2. An easement or formal agreement will be required for all private infrastructure on a reserve
3. An as-built plan of all infrastructure shall be provided to Council

4. All legal costs and the costs of formation and maintenance to the Council's satisfaction shall be borne by the grantee
5. Payment for the benefit of the infrastructure easement shall be made as a yearly rental or lump sum
6. Council will require those holding easements for services crossing reserves to meet the costs of maintaining the infrastructure. The Council will provide reasonable access for the maintenance of services and network utilities
7. Permit vehicle access associated with the ongoing operation, maintenance, development and upgrade of the National Grid transmission lines
8. When services and utilities are no longer required, they shall be removed from the site, the area reinstated to Council's satisfaction, with the costs recovered from the services/utility owner

Explanation

An easement lawfully grants the rights for one person to use another persons land for a specified purpose, in this case the use of reserves for access or utility facilities.

Easements, in particular for assets above ground, can have a negative effect on reserve values and as such they will be limited and may be declined by Council where alternatives exist or where the impact on the reserve is considered unacceptable.

Easements granted may have an annual fees for rental may be required or an up front compensation payment to Council. Existing easements may also be required to pay rental fees. Conditions regarding reinstatement of the site at the completion of the agreement period may also be included with any permission granted. By not granting easements in perpetuity, and requiring reinstatement of the site, the values of the reserves will be re-established

4.3 Facilities and Chattels Abandonment

Objectives

- A. To ensure buildings or structures that are of benefit to reserve users are retained.
- B. To ensure that at all times reserves are safe and well presented public places.
- C. To seek the adaptive reuse or relocation of buildings where practical.
- D. To ensure the owner of a building or structure is responsible for the maintenance and security of a building until disposal has occurred.

Policies

1. The owner of a building or structure will dispose of the facility under the terms of the lease agreement and in conjunction with this policy
2. Where a building or other structure is no longer required by an occupier or Council, the following steps will be taken in priority order:
 - 2.1 The occupier may with Council prior approval seek a new occupier and they must seek a new lease or an assignment (as permitted by relevant Acts, or policies) or remove the building or structure from the reserve
 - 2.2 If the occupier cannot either find a new suitable occupier or remove the building or structure, then Council may take reasonable efforts to find a new suitable occupier or use for the building
 - 2.3 If no suitable occupier or use can be found, Council will consider moving the building or structure
 - 2.4 If no suitable occupier can be found and the building or structure cannot be relocated and there is no reasonable foreseeable use for the building or structure then it will be demolished at the cost of the owner of the building
 - 2.5 Council will have the option to tender or sell the building (not the land) as an alternative to demolishing it, providing it can be removed from the site
 - 2.6 Where the building or structure is not compatible with the primary function and values of the reserve, it will be removed from the reserve
 - 2.7 Where Council does not own the building, the costs associated with removal or demolition of the building and or structure and reinstatement of the reserve to Council's satisfaction shall be charged to the owner

Explanation

Facilities and chattels can become abandoned on a reserve for a range of reasons (e.g. club or organisation becomes insolvent due to a lack of membership). Where possible, Council will work with the organisation prior to abandonment of facilities and chattels.

Abandonment is determined when the organisation or group who held an existing or expired occupational agreement is no longer occupying the facility and/or chattels for the intended and agreed purpose of the occupational agreement OR the organisation or group no longer has capacity to secure a new occupational agreement following the policies outlined in this RMP.

Where the previous occupational agreement holder may have financially contributed to improvements on the reserve, there is no compensation available for abandonment or the termination of an occupational agreement.

Unfortunately there is often significant history and contribution a group leaves behind when managing abandoned facilities. Where possible and appropriate, the history of facilities will be celebrated and recognised while maintaining fit-for-purpose facilities for the community.

4.4 Events

Objectives

- A. To manage the use of reserves for events and occasional use so that it is consistent with the reserve values and existing use
- B. To allow reserves to be used for public and private events and other occasional use

Policies

1. Any proposed event on a reserve will be assessed by Council, in accordance with the Approvals Framework, any Council events strategy, and consider:
 - a. The nature and purpose of the event including how it will provide for public access and enjoyment
 - b. The date(s) and duration of the event
 - c. How provision for safety (including safe preparation and sale of food), security, and waste management
 - d. The effect(s) on neighbours
2. The cost of organisation and running of any approved event on a reserve will be the responsibility of the event organiser
3. Any reserve used for an approved event will be left in the condition in which it was found prior to the event to the satisfaction of the Council's Service Delivery General Manager or their representative
4. Council will retain the right to:
 - a. Apply fees and charges to event applicants for the uses of reserves
 - b. Require a refundable bond from any event organizer and retain the discretion to expend the bond to reinstate the reserve should this be required
 - c. Event organisers for any approved event will be fully responsible for securing in advance all consents and approvals for the operation of the event and will ensure they respect any relevant bylaws or District Plan requirements
5. Any event wishing to present a fireworks display must apply by written application to the Council and provide prior permission from Fire and Emergency New Zealand and proof of public liability insurance

Explanation

Any proposed use for special events requires due consideration of the extent of possible damage to reserves, any effects on other use or users, and any effects on adjoining land use or users before approval is given. The Council reserves the right to close reserves or to decline applications for use where conditions warrant.

Events can enhance the public use and enjoyment of reserves and contribute to the diversity and vibrancy of the community. Events with large numbers of people and activities can also adversely affect the reserve and its neighbours. Council therefore needs to retain full discretion over the number, nature, and organisation of any event on Council reserves or in a Council owned/operated building or facility.

4.5 Reserve Management Plan Document Review

Objective

- A. Reserve management plans are to be kept in continuous review to reflect the community's aspirations for reserves

Policies

1. A RMP's content can be updated for minor edits, where the intent of objectives and policies is maintained, by Council (or delegate) resolution
2. A review of a RMP section or introduction of new objectives and policies may be undertaken with draft changes presented in a one month public consultation period⁵. Public submissions will be provided to Council (or delegate) for decision. Final edits are to be approved by Council (or delegate) resolution.

Explanation

Reserve management plan are required under the Reserves Act (1977) to be kept in continuous review, at minimum a 10 yearly review.

Minor edits are likely to be required as reference documents (e.g. specific referred policies) are updated resulting in minor content change require to ensure the reference is applicable. Addressing minor edits is best practice and does not impact the objectives and policies which have been consulted on with the community, therefore will not require public consultation.

Reviewing sections of an RMP or introducing new content may occur for a number of reasons (e.g. new technology or activity is identified for management or a new reserve is required to be included in an omnibus RMP). As the review or new content may alter the intent of existing publicly contributed material, further public consultation is required.

Final decision for any edits to an RMP document is made by Council (or delegate) resolution.

5. Reserve Management

5.1 Ashes & Whenua

Objective

- A. Balance cultural wishes while maintaining safe spaces for all reserve users

⁵ Different or additional consultation may be required in accordance with the Waikato District Council Significance and Engagement Policy (2020)

Policy

1. Discourage the scattering or placement of ashes from cremation or burying of placenta/whenua in reserve gardens, or in any place that is easily or frequently accessed by the public

Explanation

The scattering of ashes from cremation is a deeply significant experience for a loved one's family and friends, however it can be alarming for people working in or using a reserve to realise that they may have inadvertently disturbed, ashes from cremation.

The burying of placenta/whenua on reserves can also cause difficulty for reserve management. Families who have buried placenta on reserves may be concerned if such sites are disturbed during redevelopment. For this reason, placenta should not be buried within reserves unless done so with the consent of Council, and in an area that is not regularly maintained or disturbed.

Reserves may be able to accommodate the scattering of ashes or burying of placenta in some cases, but only in managed circumstances.

5.2 Waste

Objectives

- A. To encourage the removal of litter from reserves by users so that it can be appropriately disposed or recycled at home
- B. To provide litter bins only where there is significant volume of litter generation or dog waste from on-site activities

Policies

1. Council will promote “rubbish-free” reserves that encourages people to take rubbish away with them. Where rubbish bins are provided Council will, where appropriate, move toward providing facilities that cater for recycling as well as general rubbish
2. The Council may install or remove litterbins as required to minimise waste issues within reserves and to encourage users to take responsibility for their waste. New litter bins will only be installed where:
 - a. Litter or dog-waste is being generated by reserve users
 - b. There is a clearly demonstrated need
 - c. A reserve is categorised as a destination area requiring a higher level of service
3. Where a reserve is used for an event or tournament, the organisers will be responsible for the collection and approved disposal of all associated litter and waste

Explanation

The provision of litterbins in reserves enables the convenient disposal of waste. However, it also has several negative effects including:

- A need to reduce waste, single use plastics and move towards reusable materials
- The high cost of providing, emptying, and maintaining litter bins
- Visual effects of litter bins and potential waste overflows during peak times
- Encouraging vermin such as possums, wasps, and rodents
- Lack of waste separation and recycling

As most waste generated is brought to reserves in the form of food and drink, many reserve agencies are encouraging visitors to take their litter home with them, this concept is known as “carry in/carry out”. Where possible Council will be encouraging waste minimisation, recycling and carry in/carry out principles. However it is acknowledged that rubbish bins are a reserve user convenience and therefore will be placed at destination reserves or where there is a clearly demonstrated need for the service.

5.3 Public Health and Safety

Objective

- A. To provide safe, well designed, and managed reserves, that support appropriate use and protection of the reserve

Policies

1. The design, development and management of reserves will consider public safety and promote appropriate use
2. All Waikato District reserves are designated as smoke-free and vape-free zones
3. Council will use a mix of education and signage to promote reserves as smoke-free and vape-free
4. Provide shade in high use reserves, primarily through tree planting, where practical and as resources permit

Explanation

The provision of quality parks and reserves contributes to an active and healthy community. The Council can also contribute to the health of the community by providing adequate opportunities for protection from the sun in reserves and by supporting smoke-free and vape-free environments.

Smoke-free and vape-free outdoor areas protect young people from the negative role-modeling effect of smoking and vaping. The less young people see smoking and vaping around them, the less 'normal' this activity becomes and the less likely they are to take up smoking themselves. Smokefree reserves also lessen the risk of damage by fire.

In terms of current best practice, committing to smoke free recreation areas is nothing new or extraordinary. Many local authorities have already contributed towards the goal of a

smoke free New Zealand and adopted smoke free outdoor public places policies that cover areas like playgrounds, parks, sports fields, reserves, and skate-parks.

Users protecting themselves and limiting their exposure to the sun during times of high UV conditions can mitigate the harmful effects of ultraviolet light. Council can assist by providing shade in reserves where practical. This will generally take the form of tree planting but may take the form of shade structures where appropriate.

5.4 Reserve Naming

Objectives

- A. The names of reserves will reflect the local history, identity, and culture
- B. Names will be identifiable to the function of the reserve

Policies

1. An application to name or rename a reserve must explain and provide evidence that the proposed name reflects one or more of the following:
 - a. The historical significance of the location
 - b. The cultural significance of the area to mana whenua
 - c. People important in the history of an area (once they are deceased).
 - d. Events, people, and places of international, national, or local significance to the community
 - e. Flora and Fauna significant or important to the history of an area
2. Council acknowledges gifted Te Reo Māori names for reserves. To recognise the significance of names provided by mana whenua, Council does not require consultation on names proposed by mana whenua for the purpose of obtaining wider community approval.
3. A reserve may not be named:
 - a. After a commercial enterprise. Community facilities or reserve assets may be individually negotiated sponsorship agreement including naming rights that may supersede Objective 1
 - b. Duplicated name existing in the district, including recognised common names
4. Renaming of reserves may be supported where:
 - a. A new name would better meet the objectives of the policy to promote local identity and mana whenua connections
 - b. Change to reserve infrastructure of primary purpose
 - c. The current name is culturally inappropriate or addresses a significant grievance
 - d. To correct inaccuracies or spelling errors
 - e. Any other reason Council considered to be appropriate

5. While Te Reo Māori or English monolingual names are preferred, Council supports dual naming in the following limited circumstances:
 - a. where there is an opportunity to promote Te Reo Māori by use of a direct Te Reo/English translation of an existing reserve name
 - b. where both English and Te Reo Māori names are already in current use in the community for the same reserve
6. Where there is dual naming, the Te Reo Māori name shall be placed first unless there are special circumstances such as where there are considerations for emergency services responses, or a gazetted English name exists
7. Generally, contiguous reserves will be given the same name. Identifiers such as North or West are not required
8. Council is responsible for all decisions to approve or decline requests to rename or dual name reserves
9. The process for assessing a name or renaming application will follow:
 - a. Where no names are proposed, or where Council initiates the project, Council will facilitate a discussion with Mana Whenua and the applicant and/or landowner to identify suitable names to be used

OR

A written application for a reserve name is received by Council in writing with detail on how the name meets the objectives and policies,

AND

 - b. Council staff assess the merit each application to ensure it aligns with legalisation, regulation, and the policies above
 - c. Where required, council will undertake public consultation in partnership with the local community board or committee. The extent of consultation is determined on a case-by-case basis
 - d. The final decision on the choice of names shall be taken by Council by way of resolution and gazetted in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977

Explanation

Most reserves within the Waikato District, both existing and new, are informally named after the name most commonly used by the local community or after the nearest street in the locality. Section 16 (10) of the Reserves Act sets out the procedure for officially naming or renaming reserves.

When new reserves are created or when existing reserves have names that are poorly related to the locality, purpose, or nature of the reserve or to its community use, it is desirable for the reserve to be named, or renamed, to ensure ease of identity and consistency.

Reserve names should tell the story of the place and reflect the area's natural and cultural heritage.

Naming or renaming reserves with a Māori name makes a significant contribution to increasing the visibility of Te Reo Māori in our communities. It will result in communities being able to see, hear, learn, and share some of Waikato's rich Māori history

Appendix 1: Reserves Actively Maintained by Waikato District Council

Editors Note: Updated tables OR online maps will be provided within the final General Policies Reserve Management Plan. For current information please see General Policies Reserve Management Plan (2015) Schedule 1: List of classified reserves administered by Council <https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/plans/reserve-management-plans/reserve-management-plans>

Appendix 2: Reserve Act Classifications and Management Categories

Reserve classification

The classification of a reserve under the Reserves Act 1977 defines the primary purposes for which a particular parcel of reserve land is retained and managed. There are seven types of reserve classification: recreation, historic, scenic, nature, scientific, government, and local purpose.

The majority of reserves in the Waikato District are held as recreation reserves, there are a few scenic reserves, one historic reserve, and a number of local purpose reserves held for utilities, community use, carparking, access ways, segregation and esplanade purposes.

The Reserves Act does not require a management plan be prepared for local purpose reserves; however where they are associated with a reserve covered by this plan they have been included to ensure a consistent approach to the entire reserve area.

Recreation Reserves are for;

"...the purpose of providing areas for the recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreational activities, including recreational tracks in the countryside." (Reserves Act 1977, Section 17 (1))

Historic Reserves are held;

"For the purpose of protecting and preserving in perpetuity such places, objects, and natural features, and such things thereon or therein contained as are of historic, archaeological, cultural, educational and other special interest" (Reserves Act S18 (1)). The structures and sites must be managed to illustrate with integrity the history of New Zealand

Scenic reserves are held;

"For the purpose of protecting and preserving in perpetuity for their intrinsic worth and for the benefit, enjoyment, and use of the public, suitable areas possessing such qualities of scenic interest, beauty, or natural features or landscape that their protection and preservation are desirable in the public interest...[and]...for the purpose of providing, in appropriate circumstances, suitable areas which by development and the introduction of flora, whether indigenous or exotic, will become of such scenic interest or beauty that their development, protection, and preservation are desirable in the public interest." (Reserves Act 1977, Section 19 (1))

Local Purpose reserves are held:

"For the purpose of providing and retaining areas for such local purpose or purposes as are specified in any classification of the reserve" (Reserves Act 1977. Section 23 (1)). These areas of land (or land and water) are suitable for a specified local educational or community purpose which does not duplicate any other purpose. Secondary purposes are to manage and protect scenic, historic, archaeological, biological or natural features, and/or maintain soil, water and forest conservation areas.

Management Categories

Recreation Aotearoa developed a categorisation framework to assist local authorities to provide a consistent approach to the management of their reserves. The categories are designed so that organisations will be able to allocate all their parks, reserves and open spaces (in all but exceptional circumstances) to one or more of the categories. This can include land that is not subject to the Reserves Act.

In broad terms, the categories selected are based on the following factors:

- i. Character (what the park looks like)
- ii. Function (what the park is used for)
- iii. Level of service (standard of provision, development, and maintenance)

When applying the parks category framework, it is recognised that most parks have a range of uses and values. Also, no parks category system will perfectly cover every park type. Therefore, a flexible yet consistent approach needs to be applied to allocating park land to the categories. To determine the appropriate category for each park, organisations must determine the predominant function of that park.

Category	Description/ Predominant Function
Sports and Recreation Parks	Parks (often quite large areas) set aside and developed for organised sport and recreation activities, recreation facilities and buildings, often multiple use.
Neighbourhood Parks	Parks developed and used for informal recreation and sporting activities, play and family based activities, and social and community activities.
Public Gardens	Parks and gardens developed to a very high horticultural standard with collections of plants and landscaping for relaxation, contemplation, appreciation, education, events, functions and amenity/intrinsic value.
Nature Parks	Parks that offer the experience and/or protection of the natural environment, containing native bush, coastal margins, forestry, farm parks, wetlands, riparian areas and water bodies.
Cultural Heritage Parks	Parks that protect the built cultural and historical environment, and/or provide for heritage conservation, education, commemoration, mourning and remembrance.
Outdoor Adventure Parks	Parks developed and used for recreation and sporting activities and associated built facilities that require a large scale, forested, rural or peri-urban environment.
Civic Parks	Areas of open space often provided within or adjacent to central business districts, and developed to provide a space for social gatherings, meeting places, relaxation and enjoyment
Recreation and Ecological Linkage Parks	Areas of open space that are often linear in nature, that provide pedestrian and cycle linkages, wildlife corridors and access to water margins. May provide for environmental protection, and access to waterways.

Appendix 3: Glossary

Council: Abbreviation referring to Waikato District Council.

CPTED: Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design or CPTED suggests that the design of buildings, landscaping and outdoor environments can either encourage safety and/or discourage crime.

Gazette: It is an authoritative journal of constitutional record and contains official commercial and government notifications that are required by legislation to be published.

Iwi: Tribe, people.

Kaitiaki: A custodian or a guardian.

Kaitiakitanga: The exercise of guardianship / custodianship / stewardship by mana whenua. **Mana whenua:** The right of a Māori tribe to manage a particular area of land.

Kōiwi: A spirit or remains.

Legislation: An Act is a law passed by Parliament. Before an Act is passed by Parliament it is called a bill.

Mana whenua: People of a particular area of land.

Pouwhenua: Carved wooden post used by Māori.

Private utility: Means all utilities, both public and private, which provide sewerage and/or water service and that are not municipal corporations.

Public utility: Is an organization that maintains the infrastructure for a public reserve (often also providing a service using that infrastructure).

Rāhui: A rāhui is a form of tapu restricting access to, or use of, an area or resource by the kaitiakitanga of the area.

Reserve: Is used collectively for parks, open spaces, recreation areas, natural bush, coastal beach reserves, esplanades, that are managed by Council for a variety of purposes and public benefits.

Tangata whenua: Means the people of the land: that is the Māori iwi or hapu (sub-tribes) which have mana whenua (customary authority) over a particular area.

Taonga: Treasure, artifacts.

Te Reo Māori: Māori language.

Tikanga: Protocols, practices. Tikanga holds the kawa; Kawa is the applicable custom applied. Kawa is the policy and tikanga are the procedures on how the policy is realised.

Universal design: Universal Design is the design and composition of an environment so that it can be accessed, understood, and used to the greatest extent possible by all people regardless of their age, size, ability, or disability.

Wāhi tapu: Sacred areas.

Whenua: Is the placenta and/or the land.

Whakairo: art carving