

AGENDA for a hearing by the Infrastructure Subcommittee (to hear, consider submissions and make recommendations on the Natural Reserves Management Plan) to be held in the Council Chambers, District Office, 15 Galileo Street, Ngaruawahia on **TUESDAY 30 OCTOBER 2018** commencing at **2.30pm**.

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. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

2. CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS

3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

4. REPORT

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GJ Ion
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Open Meeting

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| To | Infrastructure Subcommittee |
| From | Ian Cathcart General Manager Service Delivery |
| Date | 09 October 2018 |
| Prepared by | Eric Hamilton Operations Support Contractor, Xyst Ltd |
| Chief Executive Approved | Y |
| Reference # | 2101955 |
| Report Title | Hearing of submissions to the Natural Reserves Management Plan |

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following a one month consultation period in 2017, Council drafted a Natural Reserve Management Plan (the plan) under the Reserves Act 1977 (the Act). The plan was recently published for a second round of public consultation where feedback was sought over a legislated two months period. During that period 28 submissions were received.

The purpose of this report is to hear and consider all submissions received to the draft Reserve Management Plan. The submissions received have been summarised into a spreadsheet and attached to this report.

Following the hearing and deliberations, the draft Natural Reserves Management Plan will be presented to the Infrastructure Committee for adoption.

2. RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report from the General Manager Service Delivery be received;

AND THAT pursuant to section 41(6)(d) of the Reserves Act 1977 the Hearings Panel hear and consider all submissions received to the draft Natural Reserve Management Plan.

3. BACKGROUND

Management Plans

Management plans are mandatory under the Reserves Act 1977 for certain classes of reserve land. Management plans are helpful in that they identify appropriate uses of each reserve and

outline development and management of parks into the future. The plans are developed through a formal community consultation and hearings process.

In June 2014, Council adopted a position on the process for development of management plans. This position involves the production of grouped plans by reserve type and individual plans for key reserves. Council's Parks Strategy 2014 identifies the various reserve types. Reserve Management Plans fit within the Parks Strategic Work Programme.

The Sports Park Management Plan and General Policies Reserve Management Plan were the first plans that have been created in this process. These were adopted by Council in June 2015. The Neighbourhood Parks Reserve Management Plan was adopted by Council in 2017.

The Natural Reserves Management Plan is the fourth omnibus plan covering multiple sites across the district. It includes all the large natural areas which feature native forest, wetlands, dunes or a mix of these areas.

4. DISCUSSION

Under the Reserves Act 1977, the draft management must be open for public consultation for no less than two months. Consultation on the draft Natural Reserves Management Plan was open between 1 August and 1 October. During that period 28 submissions were received.

Some of the key themes from the submissions received include ensuring that the plan identifies existing leases including grazing of stock, enabling policy that includes weed pest control particularly around boundaries, and reviewing public access into and through reserves.

Following the hearing and deliberations, staff will include any suggested amendments from the Hearings Panel to the draft plan before presenting it to the Infrastructure Committee at their next meeting.

5. CONSIDERATION

5.1 FINANCIAL

The financial implication of undertaking this process has been accounted for within existing budgets.

5.2 LEGAL

Joint Management Agreement

Waikato District Council has entered into a Joint Management Agreement (JMA) with Waikato-Tainui Te Kauhanganui Incorporated in its capacity as trustee of the Waikato River Trust. In Schedule D to the Joint Management Agreement, the parties agree that early engagement and enhanced discussion in matters relating to land management, acquisition and disposal of land would be of benefit to the parties and the community.

It is important to remember that certain parks will be derived from the Crown and subject to a right of first refusal (RFR) to Waikato-Tainui. The schedule of land which is Crown derived and in Council ownership or possession and to which a RFR would apply was provided to the Joint Management Committee in October 2014.

Where any parcel of land would be subject to a RFR, this will not interfere with the current identified use in the Reserve Management Plan. Where land is subject to the Reserves Act 1977 only upon the formal revocation of the reserve status would the land become Crown land, and for Waikato-Tainui any land that lies within the Claim area, the Right of First Refusal (RFR) would apply only in the event that the land is to be disposed of by the Crown.

Schedule E to the JMA (Authorised Customary Activities – Reserves, Lakes and Streams) sets out how Council will engage with Waikato-Tainui in respect of the management plan process. Prior to drafting of the plan a meeting was held with a representative of Waikato Tainui to discuss the project and initiate engagement with iwi.

Reserves Act 1977

The Reserves Act governs the management of reserves and the development of the Neighbourhood Parks Reserve Management Plan will follow the clauses of Section 41 of the Act. This includes seeking feedback from the public for a period not less than two months.

5.3 STRATEGY, PLANS, POLICY AND PARTNERSHIP ALIGNMENT

The Significance and Engagement Policy provides at Schedule I a list of Waikato District Council's strategic assets, which identifies reserves listed and managed under the Reserves Act 1977 as strategic assets.

The Policy requires Council to take into account the degree of importance and determine the appropriate level of engagement, as assessed by the local authority, of the issue, proposal, decision or matter, in terms of the likely impact on and, consequence for:

- (a) The district or region;
- (b) Any persons who are likely to be particularly affected by, or interested in, the issue, proposal, decision or matter;
- (c) The capacity of the local authority to perform its role, and the financial and other costs of doing so.

5.4 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT POLICY AND OF EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

| Highest levels of engagement | Inform | Consult | Involve | Collaborate | Empower |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <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>As per the Significance and Engagement Policy, consultation on the Natural Reserves Management Plan was requires as legal requirement were triggered.</p> <p>All adjoining neighbours to natural reserves were notified via a letter that Council was seeking feedback of the draft Natural Reserves Management Plan.</p> | | | | |

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

| Planned | In Progress | Complete | |
|---------|-------------|----------|---|
| | Ongoing | | Internal |
| | | Complete | Community Boards/Community Committees |
| | Ongoing | | Waikato-Tainui/Local iwi (provide evidence / description of engagement and response) |
| | | Complete | Households |
| | | Complete | Business |
| | | Complete | Other Please Specify – adjoining neighbours |

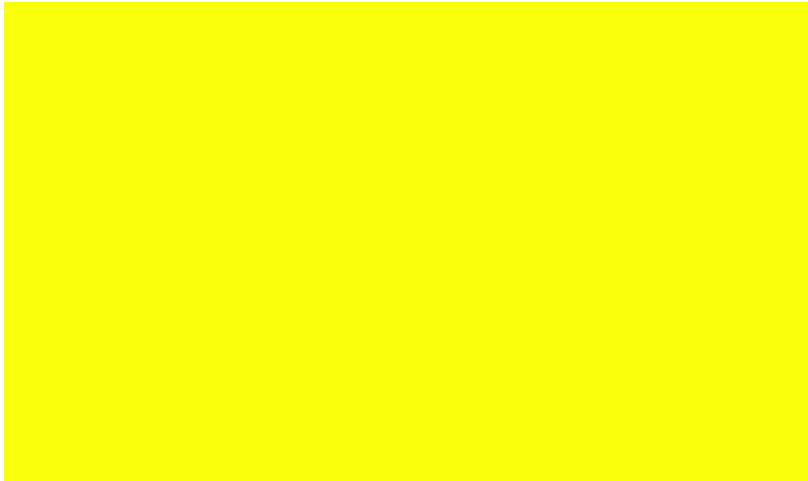
6. CONCLUSION

Council had undertaken a two month consultation period on the draft Natural Reserves Management Plan, receiving 28 submissions. These need to be heard and reviewed, with recommendations made on the draft plan as to what changes need to be undertaken to ensure the plan meets Council, community and strategic outcomes.


7. ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment A – draft Natural Reserves Management Plan (un-amended)
- Attachment B – Summary of Submissions
- Attachment C – Late Submission
- Attachment D – Late Submission

Draft Waikato District Natural Parks Reserve Management Plan



Draft for Consultation –
August 2018



This Reserves Management Plan has been prepared by Waikato District Council (the Council) under the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977 Section 41.

Adopted on tbc

Process timeline

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Call for suggestions | February 2017 |
| Draft Management Plan released for submissions | June 2018 |
| Submissions closed | tbc |
| Hearing | tbc |
| Management plan adopted | tbc |

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1.0 Purpose of this plan

Reserve management plans provide direction for the future development, management and use of reserves.

Determining community and environmental protection 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 each reserve that is managed by Council. It also helps ensure that management decisions are consistent with the principles of the Reserves Act 1977.

The primary purpose of Natural Reserves is to provide opportunities for protection and enhancement of the environment, and for people to experience nature. The definition of nature and natural is widely defined to include: native bush areas, wetlands, coastal and lake margins, forestry, farm parks, esplanade and restoration areas or other natural landscapes. This plan will provide for consistent approach to the management of these reserves in the Waikato district.

Some of the District's destination lakes have existing reserve management plans and are therefore excluded from the scope of this document.

1.1 Reserve management plan requirements

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

These management plans should "... provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection, and preservation ... and, ... the development, as appropriate, of the reserve for the purpose for which it is classified".

Open space is recognised as an important component of the urban environment, providing opportunities for recreation and leisure. This management plan provides a framework within which managers can develop a balanced response to current opportunities and address future pressures.

The management plan identifies clear objectives and establishes directions for planning, resource management and maintenance of public open space. It clarifies and establishes policy and direction for both Council staff and the public.

When adopted, this management plan and the General Polices Management Plan 2015 will replace any previously prepared reserve management plan for reserves included in this plan.

This management plan will be kept under continuous review to ensure that the policies are appropriate and relevant for the communities within the Waikato district. It is intended that a comprehensive review will take place every five years.

1.2 Relationship with general policies

This management plan is to be read in conjunction with the General Policies Reserve Management Plan. The general policies will apply to all reserves within the Waikato district. Where there is a conflict between the specific policies contained within this plan and the general policies contained within the General Policies Reserve Management Plan, the specific policies in this plan will take precedence.

1.3 Relationship with strategies

Council has other strategies that impact parks, including the Parks Strategy, Signage Strategy, Trails Strategy and Toilet Strategy. Whereby these strategies have identified policies for parks it is the intention that these will be implemented. These policies may relate to issues such as installing park signage and upgrading public toilets. To avoid repetition these policies have not been repeated in this document.

1.4 Waikato-Tainui Joint Management Agreement

Council and Waikato-Tainui have entered into a Joint Management Agreement in accordance with the Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010. The agreement acknowledges that Council has rights and responsibilities with regard to management of reserves under Reserves Act 1977.

The agreement also acknowledges that Council has a requirement to consult to determine appropriate management of Crown land under Council control and to consider how management decisions may impact on any future return of the land to Waikato-Tainui.

In accordance with the Waikato Raupatu Claims Settlement Act 1995, Council has informed the Waikato Raupatu River Trust of its intention to prepare a reserve management plan and has discussed the scope of the reserve management plan. The Waikato Raupatu River Trust will provide Council with feedback on how the draft plan and submissions received may affect customary activities on the Waikato River.

The Council is the administrator of many reserves where the underlying ownership resides with the Crown. The Waikato Raupatu Claims Settlement Act 1995 provides a First Right of Refusal Mechanism where Crown land is to be disposed of. Where reserves are subject to first right of refusal provisions, this is identified in the property summary for each reserve.

Where the land was derived from the Crown, and therefore subject to the Waikato-Tainui Treaty Settlement, this is shown as a "Subject to WTTS". Note that Crown land is subject to Section 40 former owner offer-back provisions under the Public Works Act 1981.

1.5 Structure of this plan

The reserves covered by this management plan are presented on a ward-by-ward basis. Each reserve is described with respect to its classification and legal description and the authority under which the Council manages it.

Council's authority to administer the reserve may either come from:

1. Ownership (in such cases the land will have been "declared" reserve under Section 14 of the Reserves Act or "vested" on subdivision under the Resource management Act or Local Government Act)
2. A "vesting" from the Crown, or
3. "An appointment to control and manage" from the Crown

Where the land was derived from the Crown, and therefore subject to the Waikato-Tainui Treaty Settlement, this is shown as a "Subject to WTTS".

The current formal occupation and use of the reserve is described and the specific issues and policies that apply to the reserve are outlined. A plan showing the boundaries of the reserve is included and where required a more detailed concept plan is included showing future development.

1.6 Council and delegations

The Minister of Conservation has delegated a number of procedural and decision-making responsibilities to Council under the Reserves Act 1977. These delegations are made to "Council as a whole" and cannot be delegated to committees of Council or staff. Such decisions that must be made by a meeting of the full Council (Council as a whole) include adoption of reserve management plans, classification of reserves and granting of leases.

Other decisions, such as approval for events, removal of trees, issuing of permits etc. can be delegated from the Council to the Chief Executive and to the Parks and Facilities staff. As delegations change from time to time, the term Council is used throughout the document. Staff should refer to the Delegations Manual to determine if they have the authority to make decisions in accordance with the policies in this management plan.

1.7 Implementation

This management plan provides objectives and policies that determine the appropriate use, protection and development of the reserves administered by the Council. Decisions relating to the funding and priority for works described in this plan will be undertaken within Council's Long Term Plan and Annual Plan. Inclusion of any project within this management plan does not indicate Council funding will be available for such works as works may be funded and delivered by parties other than Council.

The reserves included within this plan have been defined as 'natural parks' under the New Zealand Recreation Association definition as opposed to their legal classification. If a need is identified to dispose of any natural reserves in the future then Council has the ability to undertake the process to do so.

The requirements of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014, to obtain an archaeological authority to modify recorded and unrecorded archaeological sites may be applicable to works undertaken in reserves. The consideration of the potential for the

presence of archaeological sites at an early stage enables avoiding modifying any sites through good project planning.

1.8 Public suggestions

Suggestions from members of the public have been incorporated into the individual management plans within this document.

Ongoing operation, maintenance, development and upgrade of network utilities within the reserves has already been considered and is covered by a policy within the General Policies Reserve Management Plan. Council's requirement to keep trees clear of lines is also acknowledged and will be adhered to. The appropriate placement and consideration of the mature size of trees in relation to existing infrastructure will also be factored into decision making.

1.9 Natural Areas not identified in this Plan

A number of Council reserves contain areas of natural value that aren't included in this plan. There are a variety of reasons they have been excluded, for example they may fall under another reserve classification such as 'Ecological Linkage' or they may already have a Reserve Management Plan (e.g. Lake Puketirini, Lake Kainui). Council will apply best practise in regards to protecting and enhancing these areas as resources allow.

In June 2016 Council adopted the 'Natural Value Reserves-Strategic Priority Framework' to provide strategic direction for the management and enhancement of Waikato District Council (WDC) administered reserves that contain important natural biodiversity and ecological values. The framework identifies key objectives for natural value reserves and provides guidance to achieve these objectives. The framework is aligned with this Reserve Management Plan as both documents seek to restore and enhance natural areas as well as provide access to the public where feasible.

In protecting and enhancing all natural areas Council will give regard to the priorities of the Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan 2014-2024.

1.10 Land other than reserve

This plan identifies land parcels that are managed for natural park purposes by Council but have either not been declared reserve or have not been classified under the Reserves Act 1977. The Reserves Act 1977 requires that an administering authority (the Council) classify all reserves prior to public notification of a reserve management plan. As such these land parcels do not form part of this reserve management plan. Council has instead elected to include them outside of the reserve management plan for completeness.

It is Council's intention that it will apply the policies outlined below in its decision-making under the Local Government Act 2002 when considering the management and development of these properties.

It is Council's intention that it will declare these properties reserve and classify them in the future. They will then be included within the General Policies and Natural Parks Reserve Management Plans in subsequent reviews of those management plans.

2.0 The reserves

2.1 Awaroa ki Tuakau Ward

2.1.1 Karioitahi Gap Domain, Otatau



| | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Reserve Classification | Recreation reserve | Area | 4.7045 hectares |
| Location | Karioitahi Road, Otatau | Legal description | Allot 451 PSH OF Waipipi |
| Authority | Vested | Subject to WTTS | Subject to a RFR outside of W-T Claim area |

Background

Located on the edge of the district boundary near Karioitahi Beach, this is a non-native pine dominated hillside forest. Some regeneration of native species is occurring.

The site has potential to become a publicly accessible natural reserves asset as it is adjacent to the visitor attractions of the beach and a private resort, as well as significant natural areas including the coast and dune lakes. Remnants of a walkway exist through the forest.

This has been identified as a low to medium value ecological site.

Reserve Issues

- Weeds negatively impacting ecological values.
- Rubbish dumped in reserve.

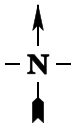
- It is not obvious that this is a reserve (signage required).
- No parking onsite.

Reserve Management Policy

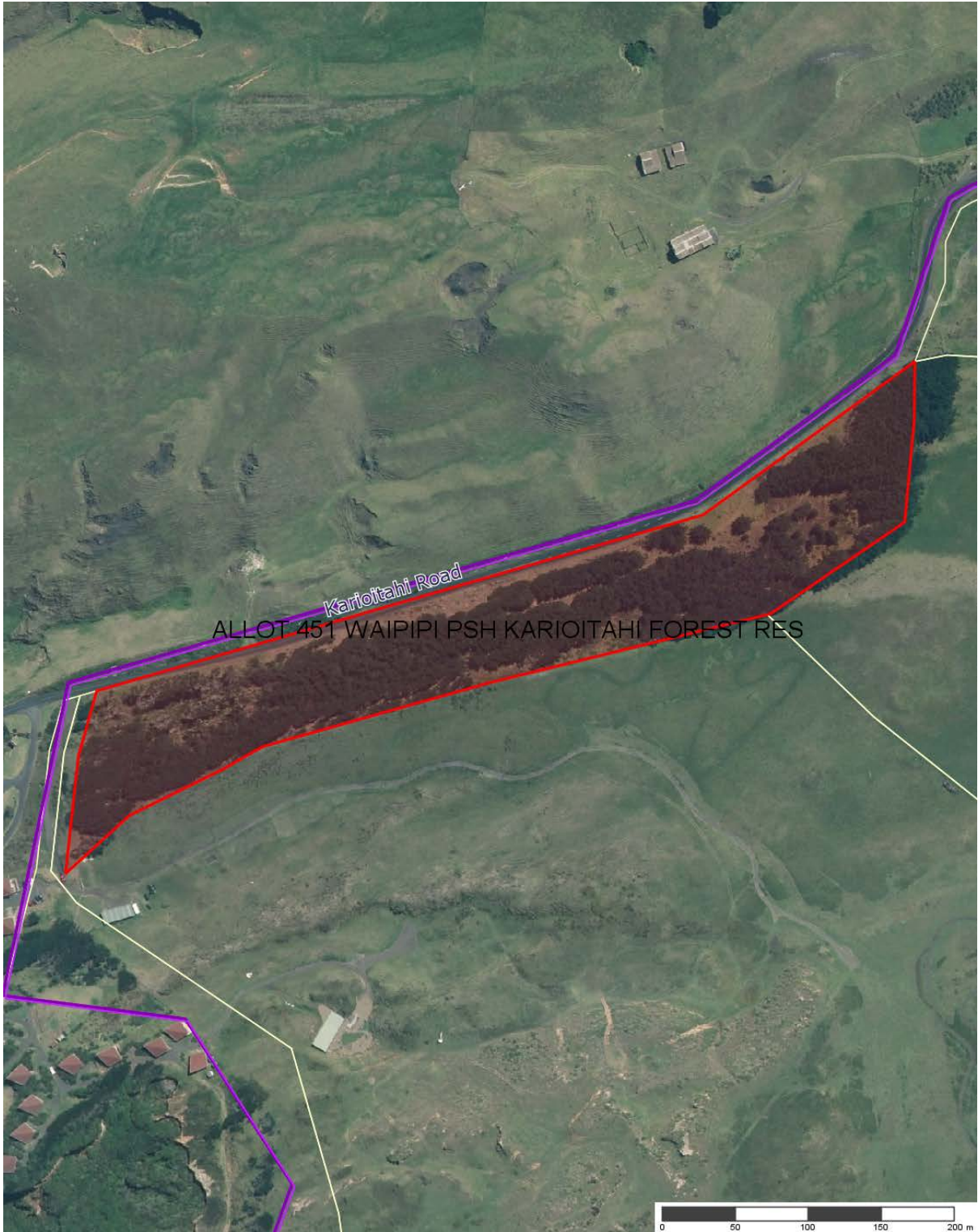
1. To ecologically enhance the habitat.
2. To have no stock in the reserve.
3. Instigate ongoing weed control programme to protect and enhance the ecological values of the reserve.
4. Carry out under planting with suitable native species.

Proposed Development

Potential for non-native trees to be sold for salvage value; any funds derived from sale of wood can be reinvested into development or planting of this reserve.



Karioitahi Gap Domain



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2.1.2 Ridge Road Scenic (Green's) Reserve, Pokeno



| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Reserve Classification | Scenic Reserve | Area | 1.4793 hectares |
| Location | Ridge Road, Pokeno | Legal description | LOT 1 DP 69133 |
| Authority | Vested | Subject to WTTS | No |

Background

Ridge Road Scenic (Green's) Reserve is a bush reserve between State Highway 1 and Ridge Road in the Bombay hills. The bush has a full mature canopy, diverse native flora and few invasive pest plants. The whole site is designated as a Significant Natural Feature. This site is bordered by a stock proof fenced strip of grazing land which is likely to help minimise weed incursion via edge effects.

This site is likely to be an important ecological island for native fauna in the area. Habitat consists of mainly native species including kohekohe, puriri and hoheria with a few kahikatea, titoki, tawa, totara and rimu. Understorey dominated by ferns, kawakawa, nikau, mahoe and mapou. This site is a good example of a biodiverse native bush and could be used as a seed collection site.

Access is from Ridge road only via a hard to access stile and across a right of way over privately owned grazed land. For safety reasons it is the NZTA's expectation that there continues to be no direct access to the park from State Highway One.

This has been identified as a medium to high value ecological site.

Reserve Issues

- Not currently suitable for public access (no safe, easily accessible public entry points).
- It is not obvious that this is a reserve (signage required).

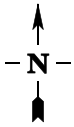
- Weeds negatively impacting ecological values.

Reserve Management Policy

1. To ecologically enhance the habitat.
2. To have no stock in the reserve.
3. Instigate ongoing weed control programme to protect and enhance the ecological values of the reserve.
4. Instigate ongoing mammalian pest control programme to protect and enhance the ecological values of the reserve.
5. Entrance is not to be provided from State Highway One for safety reasons.

Proposed Development

- Upgrade access from Ridge Road.
- Develop bush walkway.



Ridge Road Scenic (Green's) Reserve



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2.1.3 Shipherd Bush Reserve, Puni



| | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Reserve Classification | Public reserve for scenic purposes | Area | 11.1491 hectares |
| Location | Aka Aka Road, Puni | Legal description | LOTS 1 2 DP 44210 LOT 2 DP 79366 |
| Authority | Vested | Subject to WTTS | No |

Background

Shipherd Bush is kohekohe/tairiri dominated hillslope bush. It contains a full mature closed canopy and biodiverse understory. The site is designated as a Significant Natural Area. The ecosystem includes seeps, waterways, glow worms, birds and diverse flora. This site is likely to be an important ecological island for native fauna in the area.

There is no formed pedestrian access to the bush, although a wooden sign marks the site. A 20m formerly grazed strip interspaced with a few large mature native trees is fenced off from the main reserve and Aka Aka Road along the eastern boundary.

Habitat consists of mainly kohekohe, puriri, tarairi and nikau with a few titoki, totara and other native tree species. A comprehensive native understorey exists. This site is a good example of a biodiverse native bush and could be used as a seed collection site.

A number of invasive weed species were noted on the periphery of the bush and along the roadway and pose a significant threat to the sustainability of the native biodiversity.

This has been identified as a high value ecological site.

Reserve Issues

- Poor access and no public parking onsite.

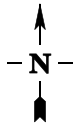
- Weeds negatively impacting ecological values.
- Possum damage and likelihood of other mammalian pests.
- Stock proof fencing has been damaged.

Reserve Management Policy

1. To ecologically enhance the habitat.
2. To have no stock in the reserve.
3. Instigate ongoing weed control programme to protect and enhance the ecological values of the reserve.
4. Instigate ongoing mammalian pest control programme to protect and enhance the ecological values of the reserve.
5. Consider reinstating grazing or mowing in buffer strip – or replant with natives.
6. Promote the reserve through additional signage from Aka Aka Road in conjunction with other initiatives (car parking and track development) to improve public awareness.

Proposed Development

- Carry out any repairs required to fence.
- Car parking is to be provided at reserve entrance.
- A recreational walking trail is to be built through the bush.



Shepherd Bush Reserve



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2.1.4 Stan Denize Scenic Park, Otatau



| | | | |
|------------------------|---|-------------------|-----------------|
| Reserve Classification | Scenic Reserve | Area | 0.9775 hectares |
| Location | Robertson Road and Bothwell Park Road, Otatau | Legal description | Lot 1 DP 94205 |
| Authority | Vested | Subject to WTTS | No |

Background

Stan Denize Scenic Park is on Bothwell Park Road off Whiriwhiri Road. Access to this hillside bush block is an issue as Bothwell Park Road is currently impassable for vehicles due to rutting.

The mature closed canopy hillside bush is approximately 50m wide stretching along the southern edge of Bothwell Park Road. There is no pedestrian access within the site although it has large wooden routed sign – “Stan Denize Scenic Reserve”.

The habitat consists of mainly kohekohe, puriri, rewarewa, and taraire with understorey of kawakawa, nikau, mahoe and mapou. This site is a good example of a biodiverse native bush and could be used as a seed collection site. There is currently minimal impact from weeds, with some woolly nightshade and exotic pines observed. A small and presumably similar copse of trees is located next to the reserve on private property.

This has been identified as a medium to high value ecological site.

Reserve Issues

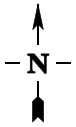
- Stock proofing audit required.
- Roading access is damaged.
- No pedestrian entrances to reserve.
- Weeds negatively impacting ecological values.

Reserve Management Policy

1. To ecologically enhance the habitat.
2. To have no stock in the reserve.
3. Instigate ongoing weed control programme to protect and enhance the ecological values of the reserve.
4. Instigate ongoing mammalian pest control programme to protect and enhance the ecological values of the reserve.

Proposed Development

- Carry out repairs to Bothwell Park Road.
- Carry out any repairs required to fence.



Stan Denize Scenic Park



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2.1.5 The Elbow Landing Reserve, Aka Aka



| | | | |
|------------------------|---|-------------------|--|
| Reserve Classification | Lots 1 & 3: Recreation Reserve Lot 2: General Land | Area | 19.9184 hectares |
| Location | Elbow Road, Aka Aka | Legal description | Lots 1 & 3 DP 69751, Lot 2 DP 84027 |
| Authority | Lots 1 & 3: Vested Lot 2: Transferred to Franklin County Council in 1978 | Subject to WTTS | No |

Background

The Elbow Landing Reserve is a multiple use site which includes a boat ramp, passive recreation area, model aero club flying site and bush area. The site is also used to access white baiting and duck shooting areas.

The bush area covers approximately half of the reserve and is a wet woodland/swamp dominated by alders. It has been identified as a Significant Natural Area. The understory includes *Tradescantia* and other exotic plants including weed species with some native species plantings and emergent natives.

Multiple model aero clubs are in the process of formalising an arrangement to operate on the capped landfill site. Beehives are also kept on the closed landfill site.

The passive recreational area by the river includes some amenity planting, a boat ramp, public toilets and parking areas. This area also hosts a water-ski club building.

This has been identified as a low to medium value ecological site.

Reserve Issues

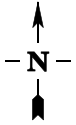
- Significant weed issues - weeds negatively impacting ecological values.
- Arrangements with user groups have not been formalised.
- Capped landfill on site may constitute a risk or be a hazard.

Reserve Management Policy

1. Formalise lease arrangements with the water-ski club, model aero clubs and beekeeper.
2. Consider value of ongoing regular pest control.

Proposed Development

- An upgrade to the boat ramp has been scheduled to be completed in the 2017/18 year.



The Elbow Landing Reserve



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2.1.6 Tramway Road Metal Dump Reserve, Puni



| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Reserve Classification | Quarry Reserve | Area | 1.6491 hectares |
| Location | Tramway Road, Puni | Legal description | Section 29S Puni Settlement |
| Authority | Vested | Subject to WTTS | No |

Background

The Northern portion of this reserve is grazed and the Southern portion contains a Significant Natural Area. A well shaded, clear flowing stream flows through this area and may be a conduit for native fish in the catchment. The stream contains a series of small waterfalls. The vegetation is dominated by mahoe with titoki and other natives. The site is also very weedy, with *Tradescantia*, montbretia and other herbaceous and woody pest plants in abundance.

The habitat is linked via the stream to other bush remnants.

At this point in time it is not intended to promote recreational usage – if this changes during future reviews of this management plan than safe vehicle parking and public access will be a priority.

This has been identified as a medium to high value ecological site.

Reserve Issues

- Significant weed issues - weeds negatively impacting ecological values.
- No access or parking.
- No signage.

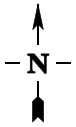
- Reserve boundary is not defined.
- Good site for pest plant biocontrol.

Reserve Management Policy

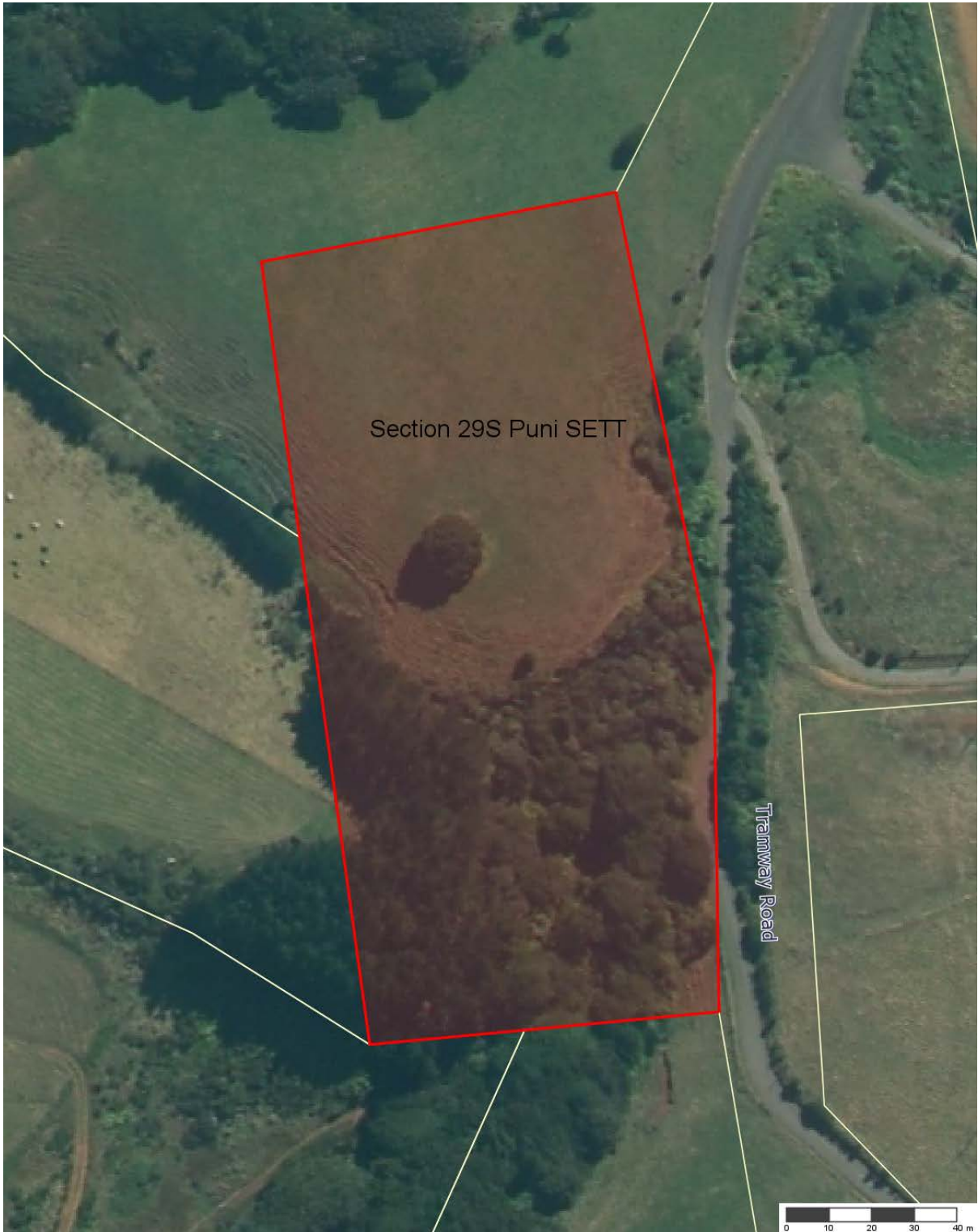
1. To ecologically enhance the habitat.
2. To have no stock in the reserve.
3. Formalise agreement with adjacent landowner for their continued use of northern grass portion of reserve, or revegetate with natives.
4. To have no stock in the natural features of the reserve.
5. Assess stream biodiversity.
6. Consider value of ongoing regular pest control.
7. Consider disposal of this reserve subject to a surplus land assessment.

Proposed Development

No specific development is anticipated.



Tramway Road Metal Dump Reserve



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2.1.7 Tribhoun Girdar Scenic Reserve, Buckland



| | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Reserve Classification | Local Purpose Scenic Reserve | Area | 1,4961 hectares |
| Location | Buckville Road, Buckland | Legal description | Lot 5 DP 97809 |
| Authority | Vested | Subject to WTTS | No |

Background

This entire reserve is covered in bush and has been identified as a Significant Natural Area. It is largely made up of closed canopy mature native species dominated bush with shaded understorey. The reserve includes a sloping hillside down to a wet area with ephemeral stream. The diversity and age profile of the natives indicates a healthy ecosystem.

This site is a good example of a biodiverse native bush and could be used as a seed collection site. No pedestrian access or parking for the site is currently available. There are signs that the reserve is/was used for occasional motor cross/mountain biking activities.

Native species identified during a site visit included totara, puriri, titoki, tree ferns, tairiri, kohekohe, kahikatea, lancewood, nikau and mapou. Weed species identified included both species of privet and Jerusalem cherry.

There is a large wooden sign on road edge that says "Tribhoun Girdar Scenic Reserve", however it is not easy to see.

This has been identified as a medium to high value ecological site.

Reserve Issues

- It is not obvious that this is a reserve (signage is not easy to see).
- There is no safe car parking or pedestrian access in to the reserve.
- Significant weed issues - weeds negatively impacting ecological values.

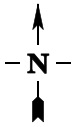
- Repairs to fence required.
- Motorbikes may be accessing the site and causing damage.

Reserve Management Policy

1. To ecologically enhance the habitat.
2. To have no stock in the reserve.
3. Instigate ongoing weed control programme to protect and enhance the ecological values of the reserve.
4. Instigate ongoing mammalian pest control programme to protect and enhance the ecological values of the reserve.
5. Complete a stock proofing audit and undertake repairs to fence as required.
6. Access (parking and pedestrian access) issues to be resolved.

Proposed Development

- There is an opportunity to create a loop walk through the reserve. Safe car parking will need to be provided if recreational facilities are established.



Tribhoun Girdar Scenic Reserve



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2.1.8 Whangarata Scenic Reserve, Tuakau



| | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Reserve Classification | Scenic Reserve | Area | 0.7203 hectares |
| Location | Pokeno Road, Tuakau | Legal description | Lot 2 DP 82069 |
| Authority | Vested | Subject to WTTS | No |

Background

This is a mature oak dominated bush with a shaded understorey on sloping hillside down to Pokeno Road. There is a mix of non-native species including weeds and some natives. A wooden sign is located on road edge: “Whangarata Scenic Reserve”.

Native species identified on a site visit included totara, tree ferns, kohekohe and mapou. Weed species identified included both species of privet, *Tradescantia*, ladder fern, pampas, gorse and Japanese honeysuckle.

At this point in time it is not intended to promote recreational usage – if this changes during future reviews of this management plan than safe vehicle parking and public access will be a priority.

This has been identified as a low to medium value ecological reserve.

Reserve Issues

- Significant weed issues - weeds negatively impacting ecological values.
- Habitat dominated by non-native mature oaks.
- No public access or parking off 100km/h road.

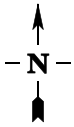
Reserve Management Policy

1. To ecologically enhance the habitat.
2. To have no stock in the reserve.

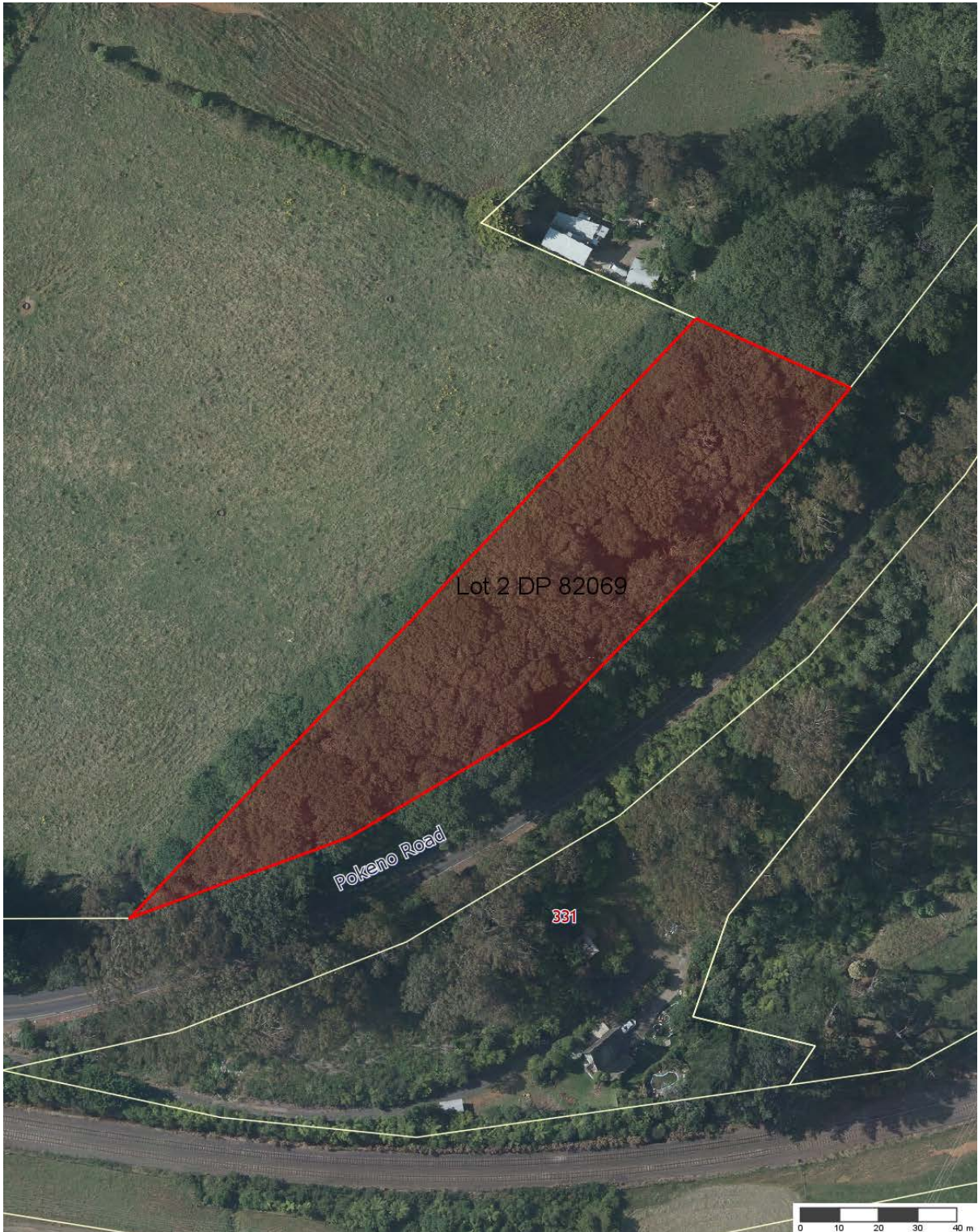
3. Consider value of ongoing regular pest control.
4. Consider value of resolving access (parking and pedestrian access) issues.
5. Consider disposal of this reserve subject to a surplus land assessment.

Proposed Development

No specific development is anticipated.



Whangarata Scenic Reserve



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2.2 Hukanui-Waerenga Ward

2.2.1 Taniwha Scenic Reserve, Waerenga



| | | | |
|------------------------|---|-------------------|--|
| Reserve Classification | Scenic Reserve | Area | 125. 7500 ha |
| Location | McGovern Road, Waerenga | Legal description | LOT 1 DPS 50712 BLKS XIV VX PIAKO SD |
| Authority | Transferred to Waikato County Council in 1989 | Subject to WTTS | No |

Background

Taniwha Scenic Reserve is a 125ha bush reserve through which runs the Taniwha Stream and tributaries. The whole site is designated as a Significant Natural Area. The bush has a full mature canopy, diverse native flora and a stream showing evidence of good water quality.

A 4X4 only access track exists but it needs repairs (including repairs to main access bridge).

The habitat consists of a diverse mix of native species, including rewarewa, totara, rimu, puriri, matai, pigeonwood with understorey of kawakawa, nikau, mahoe and mapou. This site is a good example of a biodiverse native bush and could be used as a seed collection site.

Taniwha Scenic Reserve currently has no major weed issues. Within the reserve itself there is extensive mature canopy cover with a mixed species understorey heavily grazed by feral goats. The feral goats are currently the major negative impact on the ecological values at the reserve. As far as weed species are concerned, only gorse was observed in the bush reserve itself, and then only in exposed areas along the goat tracks. Along the roadway non-native weed species have established and are beginning to encroach into the reserve.

Invasive weed species noted on the periphery of the bush and along the roadway include privet, *Elaeagnus*, Japanese walnut, Spanish heath, gorse, barberry and blackberry.

This has been identified as a high value ecological site of significant size.

Reserve Issues

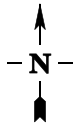
- Potential illegal hunting.
- Mammalian pests, especially feral goats.
- People trespassing from the reserve on to private land.
- Poor access/unmaintained road in need of repairs.
- Weeds negatively impacting ecological values.
- Lack of signage.
- No formed parking.

Reserve Management Policy

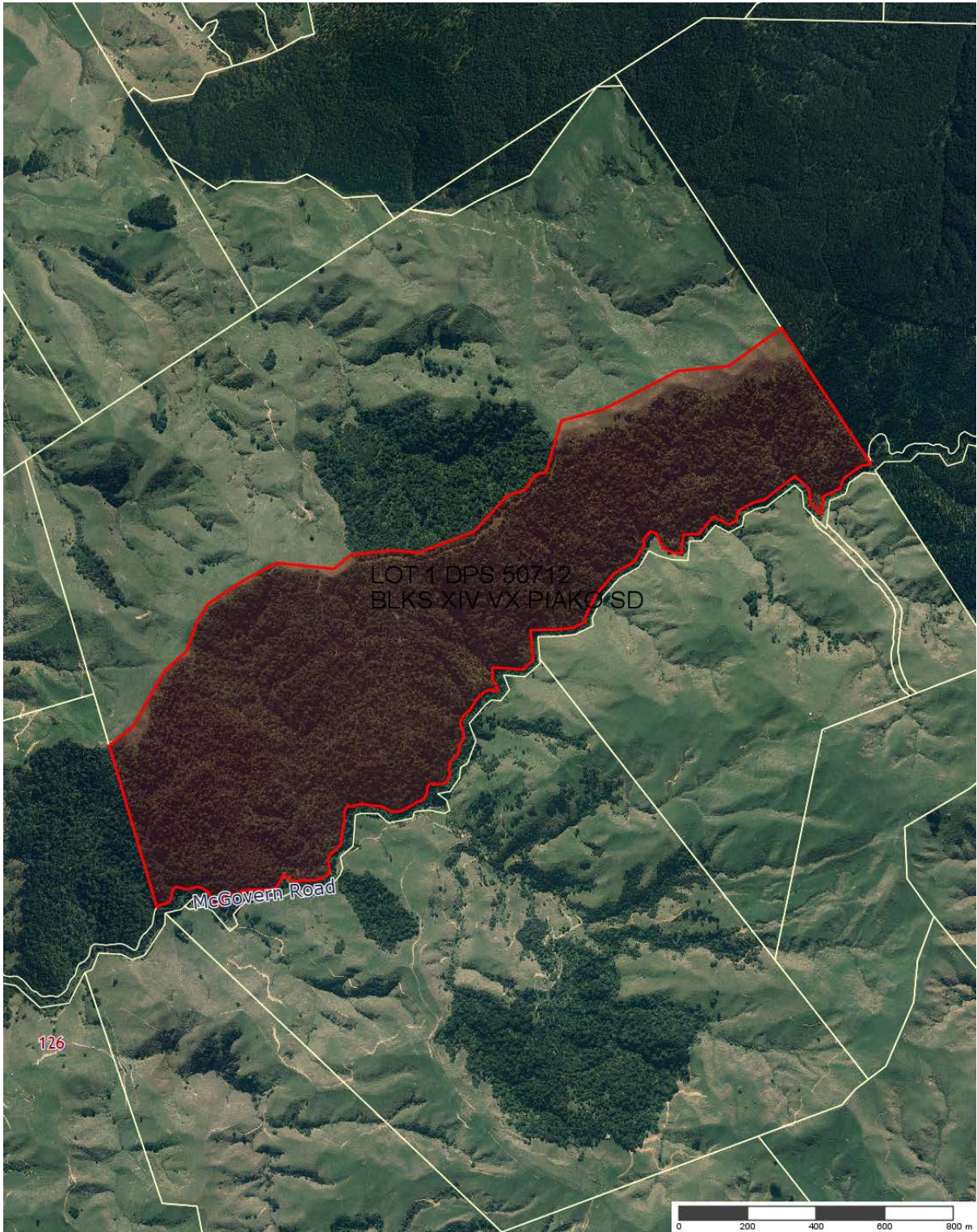
1. To ecologically enhance the habitat.
2. To have no stock in the reserve.
3. To eradicate goats from the reserve.
4. Instigate ongoing weed control programme to protect and enhance the ecological values of the reserve.
5. Instigate ongoing mammalian pest control programme to protect and enhance the ecological values of the reserve.

Proposed Development

- Repair bridge to allow access to site.
- Road access to be assessed and maintained for vehicular access.



Taniwha Scenic Reserve



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2.3 Huntly Ward

2.3.1 Glen Afton Esplanade Reserve, Glen Afton



| | | | |
|------------------------|---|-------------------|---|
| Reserve Classification | Lot I DP 33828: Not Reserve (General Land,) SECS 1-4: In trust for recreation purposes | Area | Lot I DP 33828: 0.1442 hectares, SECS 1-4: 14.7528 hectares |
| Location | Rotowaro Road, Glen Afton | Legal description | SECS 1-4 SO 372242 BLK II NEWCASTLE SD BLK XIV RANGIRIRI SD, Lot I DP 33828 |
| Authority | SECS 1-4: Vested Lot I: Transferred from private ownership to Waikato District Council in 1990 | Subject to WTTS | Lot I DP 33828: No SECS 1-4: Yes |

Background

This is a reserve along Rotowaro Road consisting of regenerating bush. It links Glen Afton to the Bush Tramway Club site and includes a large portion of the old bush tramway. The hillside is naturally regenerating with emergent scrub dominated by tree ferns, coprosmas and mahoe, as well as a variety of weeds including jasmine, wattle, arum lily, pampas, montbretia, woolly nightshade and willow.

The site includes Significant Natural Features and a stream.

The Bush Tramway Club's headquarters is privately owned. The Club have been operating at the site since 1973 and part of the site is subject to a lease to the club. Since then, this volunteer organisation has repaired and restored a significant part of the old Rotowaro to Glen Afton railway line within the reserve, and collected a unique collection of heritage locomotives and other railway items relating to the New Zealand coal and timber industries, as well as obtaining old New Zealand Railways rolling stock, much of it over a century old. The Club has for many years also been one of the few tourist/heritage attractions in the area and as such has brought financial support to the Huntly/Glen Afton area in terms of tourism dollars, through expenditure on goods and materials and from club member activities. The club owns the track on the reserve.

For many years the Bush Tramway Club has been doing a significant amount of work along the Reserve to control vegetation and encourage the re-establishment of appropriate native trees and plants.

The reserve has been highly modified by industrial activity (coal mining and the building and operating of a railway).

This has been identified as a medium value ecological site.

Reserve Issues

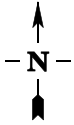
- Weeds negatively impacting ecological values.

Reserve Management Policy

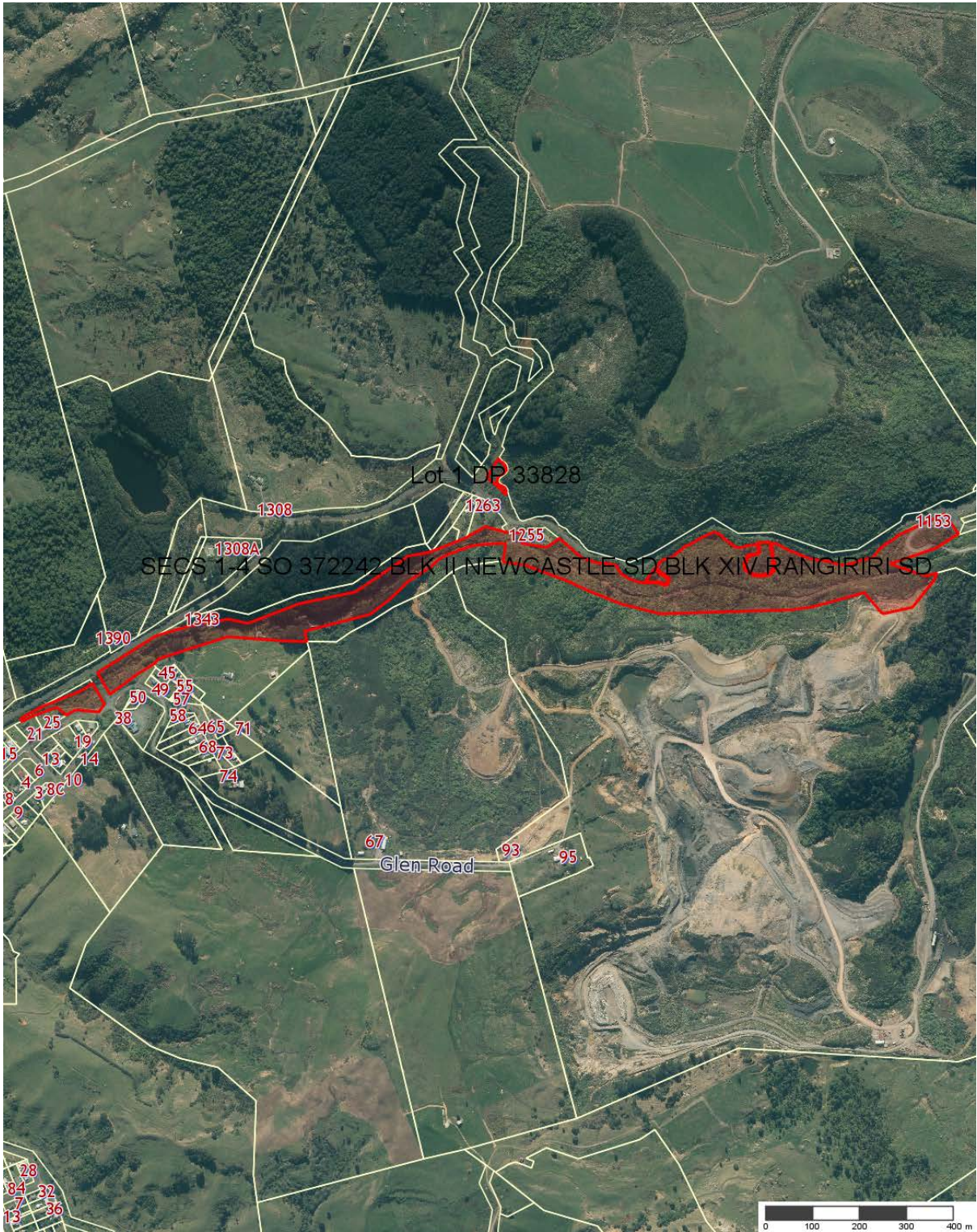
1. To have no stock in the reserve.
2. Consider under planting with climax tree species.
3. Consider value of ongoing regular pest control.
4. Formalise an agreement for continued use of the tramway for heritage trains by the Bush Tramway Club.
5. A portion of reserve land at the Glen Afton town to be reserved for the establishment of a station building and platform.

Proposed Development

- A memorial to a mine disaster will be created at the Western section of the reserve near Glen Afton.
- The Bush Tramway Club is currently raising funds to complete the tramway all the way to Glen Afton.
- Additional car parking.



Glen Afton Esplanade Reserve



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| SCALE 1:11000 | Cadastral sourced from Land Information New Zealand under CC-BY. Copyright @ Waikato District Council | Projection: New Zealand Transverse Mercator Datum: New Zealand Geodetic Datum 2000 | Print Date: 12/09/2016 A4 |
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2.3.2 Hartis Avenue Reserve, Huntly



| | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Reserve Classification | Recreation Reserve | Area | 1.0000 hectare |
| Location | Hartis Avenue, Huntly | Legal description | LOT 95 DPS 50883 |
| Authority | Vested | Subject to WTTS | No |

Background

This one hectare reserve contains rare wet woodland habitat linking in to the Kimihia lake catchment. It is adjacent to a stormwater retention pond and in a residential area. It has waterways running through it as well as wetland native plant species and it is acting as a natural stormwater filtration system. An ecological enhancement programme has established suitable native species onsite and is ongoing.

This has been identified as a medium to high value ecological site.

Reserve Issues

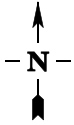
- Weeds negatively impacting ecological values.
- Inability for public to access/utilise the site.

Reserve Management Policy

1. To ecologically enhance the habitat.
2. To have no stock in the reserve.
3. Instigate ongoing weed control programme to protect and enhance the ecological values of the reserve.
4. Consider value of ongoing mammalian pest control.
5. Improve access and continue ecological enhancement.

Proposed Development

- Build a raised boardwalk loop, bridges and picnic area.



Hartis Avenue Reserve



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2.3.3 Ohinewai Reserve, Waikare



| | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--|
| Reserve Classification | Recreation Reserve | Area | Part Allot 49 Taupiri PSH 29.9336 ha, Allot 581 Taupiri PSH 0.1340 ha, Allot 656 Taupiri PSH 3.4398 ha |
| Location | Tahuna Road, Ohinewai | Legal description | Part Allot 49 Taupiri PSH, Allot 581 Taupiri PSH, Allot 656 Taupiri PSH |
| Authority | Control and manage | Subject to WTTS | Yes |

Background

This large reserve consists of swamp and grazed land located to the North West of Lake Ohinewai. The swamp is fenced and designated as a Significant Natural Area. The reserve adjoins Department of Conservation and RiverCare planting zones around the lake.

This has been identified as a low to medium value ecological site.

Reserve Issues

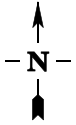
- Weeds negatively impacting ecological values.
- Stock negatively impacting ecological values.
- No formed access or parking.
- It is not obvious that this is a reserve (signage required).

Reserve Management Policy

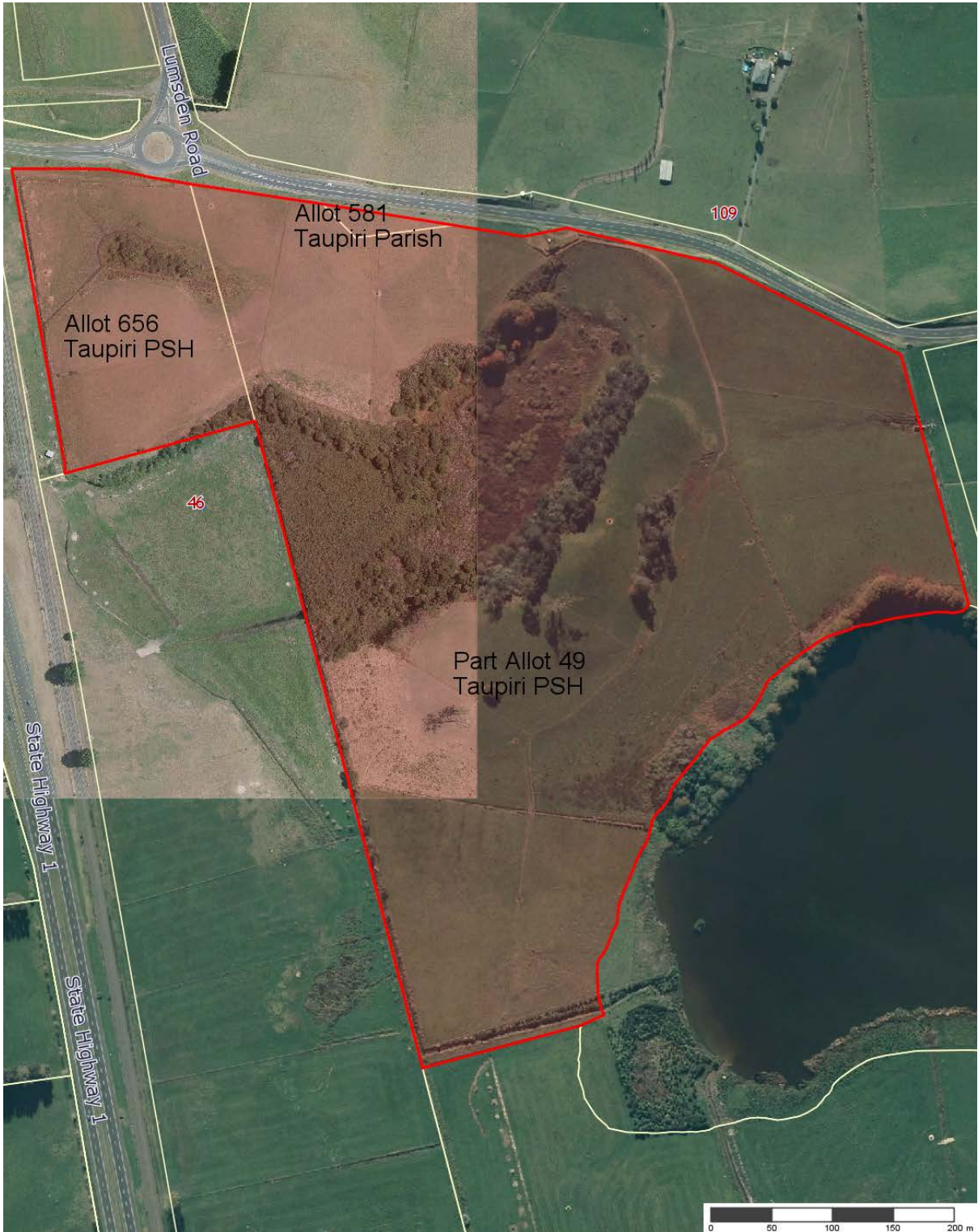
1. To ecologically enhance the habitat.
2. To have no stock in the reserve and to replace with native plantings.
3. Ongoing regular pest control.
4. Monitor fencing and undertake stock proofing repairs if required.
5. Coordinate improvements with Department of Conservation and RiverCare.

Proposed Development

- Install access road and car parking.
- Consider walkways to lake and swamp reserve.



Ohinewai Reserve



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2.3.4 Pukemiro Reserve, Pukemiro



| | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Reserve Classification | Recreation Reserve | Area | 0.1477 hectares |
| Location | Edward Avenue, Pukemiro | Legal description | PT ALLOT 166 PEPEPE PSH DP 27267 |
| Authority | Vested | Subject to WTTS | Yes |

Background

This small reserve consists of weedy bush both sides of a stream. The stream has invertebrate (mayfly and/or stone fly larvae) which are indicators of high to medium water quality. The bush is weedy with heavy coverage of montbretia, privet, blackberry and spanish heather. This plant coverage is not native dominated but does comprehensively shade the stream offering suitable microclimate over approximately 60m of waterway. Stock may also have access to the site although the steep sides will help prevent major issues. The stream runs through grazed farmland upstream and along the mostly vegetated edge of Rotowaro road downstream.

At this point in time it is not intended to promote recreational usage – if this changes during future reviews of this management plan than safe vehicle parking and public access will be a priority.

This has been identified as a low to medium value ecological site.

Reserve Issues

- Significant weed issues - weeds negatively impacting ecological values.
- It is not obvious that this is a reserve.
- No formed access or parking.

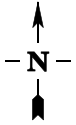
Reserve Management Policy

1. To ecologically enhance the habitat.
2. To have no stock in the reserve.
3. Consider value of ongoing regular pest control.

4. Monitor fencing and undertake stock proofing repairs if required.

Proposed Development

No specific development is anticipated.



Pukemiro Reserve



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2.3.5 Rayner Road Natural Reserve, Huntly



| | | | |
|------------------------|--|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Reserve Classification | Recreation Reserve | Area | 3.8684 hectares |
| Location | Rayner Road, Huntly | Legal description | LOT 51 DP 4124 SEC I SO 356947 |
| Authority | LOT 51 DP 4124: Vested SEC I SO 356947: Vested | Subject to WTTS | No |

Background

This recreation reserve contains areas of grass, shrub, bush and swampland and links to Department of Conservation owned land around Lake Hakanoa. It contains natural features and has significant weed issues.

This has been identified as a low to medium value ecological site.

Reserve Issues

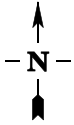
- Significant weed issues - weeds negatively impacting ecological values.
- The site is prone to flooding.

Reserve Management Policy

1. To have no stock in the natural features of the reserve.
2. Consider value of ongoing regular pest control.
3. Any proposals should take in to consideration the objectives of the Lake Hakanoa Reserve Management Plan including policies for adjacent land parcels.

Proposed Development

No specific development is anticipated.



Rayner Road Natural Reserve



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2.4 Ngaruawahia Ward

2.4.1 Hakarimata Walkway Reserve, Ngaruawahia



| | | | |
|------------------------|---|-------------------|---|
| Reserve Classification | Lot 1, Lot 3: General Land, Lot 4: Recreation Reserve | Area | Lot 1: 13.8099 hectares Lot 3: 0.8675 hectares Lot 4: 0.3809 hectares |
| Location | Hakarimata Road, Ngaruawahia | Legal description | Lot 1 DPS 8457, Lot 3 DP 324393, Lot 4 DPS 47226, |
| Authority | Lot 1, Lot 3: Vested Lot 4: Transferred to the Ngaruawahia Borough Council in 1988 | Subject to WTTS | No |

Background

The majority of this reserve is taken up by the Hakarimata bush, a Significant Natural Area. A portion of the site includes a section of the stream linking the Hakarimata hillside to the Waipa River, passing through the riverside esplanade reserve on the other side of Hakarimata Road.

This reserve includes the entranceway and a portion of the Hakarimata Summit Track which is administered by the Department of Conservation.

In 2016 a car park upgrade was undertaken and new toilets were provided. A Tomokanga (archway) near the beginning of the walk was also erected.

This has been identified as a high value ecological site.

Reserve Issues

- Weeds negatively impacting ecological values.

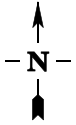
- Mammalian pests negatively impacting ecological values.

Reserve Management Policy

1. To ecologically enhance the habitat.
2. To have no stock in the reserve.
3. Instigate ongoing weed control programme to protect and enhance the ecological values of the reserve.
4. Consider value of ongoing regular mammalian pest control.
5. Provide a continuous native species dominate habitat from the river to the Hakarimata bush and improve stream conditions with shading planting.
6. Prevent water treatment plant discharges to stream.
7. Habitat enhancements throughout the reserve (including investigating potential for biocontrol).

Proposed Development

No specific development is anticipated.



Hakarimata Walkway Reserve



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2.5 Onewhero-Te Akau Ward

2.5.1 Brockett Reserve, Waingaro



| | | | |
|------------------------|---|-------------------|-----------------|
| Reserve Classification | Recreation Reserve | Area | 1.2798 hectares |
| Location | Waingaro Road, Waingaro | Legal description | LOT 1 DPS 18040 |
| Authority | Private land transferred to the Waikato District Council 1989 | Subject to WTTS | No |

Background

This reserve is located on Waingaro Road near Waingaro Hot Springs. It contains mature totara dominated bush cover, with a mix of natives. The reserve has a stream running through it. There is a wooden 'Brockett Reserve' sign on the road edge.

At this point in time it is not intended to promote recreational usage – if this changes during future reviews of this management plan then safe vehicle parking and public access will be a priority.

This has been identified as a medium value ecological site.

Reserve Issues

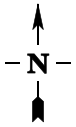
- Weeds negatively impacting ecological values.
- No easy access to and within the reserve. Located on the edge of a 100km/h road with no parking available.

Reserve Management Policy

1. To ecologically enhance the habitat.
2. To have no stock in the reserve.
3. Consider value of ongoing regular pest control.

Proposed Development

No specific development is anticipated.



Brockett Reserve



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2.5.2 Maunsell Swamp Verge, Port Waikato



| | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Reserve Classification | Recreation Reserve | Area | 2.6290 hectares |
| Location | Ashwell Drive, Port Waikato | Legal description | Lot 27 DPS 23883 |
| Authority | Vested | Subject to WTTS | No |

Background

This reserve is dominated by coastal scrub, is heavily weed infested and is located between sand dunes and houses at Maraetai Bay. The sand dunes adjacent to the reserve have been identified as a Significant Natural Area. Waikato Regional Council is undertaking an alligator weed control programme.

It is adjacent to ephemeral dune wetlands identified as priority management areas in the Wildlands Ecological Enhancement Plan for Port Waikato.

This has been identified as a low to medium value ecological site.

Reserve Issues

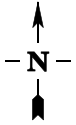
- Significant weed issues - weeds negatively impacting ecological values.
- Vehicles accessing the dunes through the reserve.

Reserve Management Policy

1. Consider value of ongoing regular pest control.
2. Reserve enhancements should take in to consideration the vision for the neighbouring dune wetlands (identified in the Ecological Enhancement Plan for Port Waikato), and the adjacent neighbourhood park (see the Maraetai Bay Foreshore Reserve Management Plan).
3. Any works involving digging will require consultation with Heritage New Zealand prior.

Proposed Development

No specific development is anticipated.



Maunsell Swamp Verge



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2.5.3 Naike Esplanade Reserve, Naike



| | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Reserve Classification | Scenic Reserve | Area | 0.4670 hectares |
| Location | Highway 22, Naike | Legal description | LOT 8 DPS 53167 |
| Authority | Vested | Subject to WTTS | No |

Background

This is a small reserve adjacent to 3789 Highway 22. The native bush extends beyond the reserve boundary on to the road reserve. The site is located on a hillside. It has a small lay-by carpark with two picnic benches, with the remnants of signage, fencing and paths relating to work done by the Naike School in the 1980s.

There is a walkway from the carpark in to the bush which has a mature closed canopy and contains minor waterways. The dominant species are kahikatea and totara, with some tanekaha, tawa, nikau, mapou, rangiora, native broom, pate and mahoe. This site is a good example of a biodiverse native bush and could be used as a seed collection site. The site has been designated a Significant Natural Area. The only weed noticed during a site visit was African club moss.

This has been identified as a high value ecological site.

Reserve Issues

- Weeds negatively impacting ecological values.
- It is not obvious that this is a reserve (signage required).

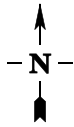
Reserve Management Policy

1. To ecologically enhance the habitat.
2. To have no stock in the reserve.

3. Instigate ongoing weed control programme to protect and enhance the ecological values of the reserve.
4. Instigate ongoing mammalian pest control programme to protect and enhance the ecological values of the reserve.

Proposed Development

- Restore and maintain access tracks and carpark.



Naike Esplanade Reserve



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2.5.4 Ocean View Road Reserve (Part of Sunset Beach Reserve), Port Waikato



| | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Reserve Classification | Recreation Reserve | Area | 0.3733 hectares |
| Location | Ocean View Road, Port Waikato | Legal description | LOT 10 DPS 17714 |
| Authority | Vested | Subject to WTTS | No |

Background

LOT 10 DPS 17714 is a small (0.37ha) parcel of reserve land at the north end of Ocean View Road, Sunset Beach, Port Waikato leading into the foreshore dune system. The reserve includes a sand vehicle access road to the dunes and shore. The site is heavily dominated by weeds including pampas, agapanthus and garden escapees. It has been assessed for ecological value as part of Wildlands Ecological report for Port Waikato.

This has been identified as a low to medium value ecological site.

Reserve Issues

- Significant weed issues - weeds negatively impacting ecological values.
- Coastal erosion.
- Vehicle access damaging habitat.

Reserve Management Policy

1. Reserve enhancements should take in to consideration the vision for the neighbouring dune system (identified in the Ecological Enhancement Plan for Port Waikato).
2. Consider value of ongoing regular pest control.
3. Comprehensive weed control should not occur without replacement plantings as this may result in (wind) erosion of site. Establishing appropriate grasses and plants will discourage erosion and dune encroachment.

4. Agree upon and formalise arrangement for vehicle access to neighbouring private properties.
5. Any works involving digging will require consultation with Heritage New Zealand prior.

Proposed Development

- Upgrade vehicle access road and promote through signage (to discourage people accessing the beach where dunes will be negatively impacted).