

Minutes for a meeting of the General Policies Reserves Management Plan Hearings Panel held in the Council Chambers, District Office, 15 Galileo Street, Ngaruawahia **MONDAY, 17 APRIL 2023** commencing at **9.15am**.

Present:

Cr JM Gibb (Chairperson)
Cr C Beavis (arrived 9:30am)
Cr T Turner

Attending:

Mr R Gibbs (Tamahere Mangaone Restoration Trust)
Mr L Koppens (Tamahere Mangaone Restoration Trust)
Ms C Robertson (Auckland Waikato Fish and Game)
Mr J Lawson (*via audiovisual link*)
Mrs A Greensill (Tainui o Tainui)
Mr A Greensill (Tainui o Tainui)
Mr H West (Sport Waikato)

Mr A Averill (Deputy General Manager, Service Delivery)
Mr M Horsfield (Reserve Planner)
Ms R Serhan (Reserve Planner)
Ms Annette Champion (Xyst Consulting)
Ms R Leahy (Democracy Advisor)

Cr Turner opened the meeting with a Karakia.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON

Resolved: (Crs Turner/Gibb)

THAT Cr Gibb be appointed Chairperson of the General Policies Reserves Management Plan Hearings Panel.

CARRIED

INFHE2304/01

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Resolved: (Crs Gibb/Turner)

THAT the apology from Cr Beavis for lateness be accepted.

CARRIED

INFHE2304/02

CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS

Resolved: (Cr Turner/Gibb)

THAT:

- a. the agenda for a meeting of the **General Policies Reserves Management Plan Hearings Panel** held on **Monday, 17 April 2023** be confirmed;
- b. all items therein be considered in open meeting; and
- c. all reports be received.

CARRIED

INFHE2304/03

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

REPORTS

Resolved: (Crs Gibb/Turner)

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**.

CARRIED

INFHE2304/04

Hearing of submissions on the draft General Policies Reserve Management Plan
Agenda Item 5.1

The report was received [INFHE2304/03 refers], and the follow discussion was held:

- The General Policies Reserves Management Plan was adopted in 2015 and sets objectives and policies applied to all the reserves in the District. Under the Reserves Act the Reserves Management Policies are meant to be kept under review.
- It was noted that 42 submissions were received, the majority of which were in the early engagement stage. The second round of Public consultation received fewer submissions, suggesting that the Plan was broadly accepted by the public.
- There had been some technological advances that needed to be addressed i.e. drones and e-cigarettes.

Cr Beavis arrived at the Hearing at 9.30am

**Clare Robertson on behalf of Auckland Wildlife Fish and Game
(Submission ID 5826)**

- The submitter was largely supportive of the General Reserves Management Plan, however, wanted to focus on leases and licences.
- The submitter noted that there were a number of reserves in the Waikato District that were currently leased or utilised for grazing without any formal agreement. Grazing on Council Reserves was often poorly managed or had a lack of oversight from Waikato District Council. Many of the reserves that were grazed are adjacent to waterways which could lead to the degradation of waterways and ecosystems.
- The submitter suggested Council conduct a stock take of the reserves under Council administration to gain an understanding of what practices are in place on those reserves and how to better protect the biodiversity of the surrounding areas.

**Russell Gibbs on behalf of Tamahere Mangaone Restoration Trust
(Submission ID 5826)
Attachment 5.1A**

- It was noted that there had been an error in the report. The Tamahere Mangaone Restoration Trust's submission had not been included in the agenda and an incorrect submission had been attributed to the submitter.
- It was noted that the Tamahere Community Committee's submission was also not submitted, Mr Gibbs provided a copy of the submission to the Panel for consideration (**Attachment 5.1B**).
- The Trust was largely supportive of the Plan however, it was noted that an engagement strategy would be beneficial for community groups.
- The Trust believed there was a need for separate section in the Plan to deal with scientific, ecological and natural resources within the district.
- The Trust's primary focus is the rehabilitation of gullies, removing invasive species and creating walkways for the community. With this in mind, the Trust would like to see a consistent plan in place to address the weed issue in the district and the implementation of a biodiversity plan.
- The Trust raised a concern about Council's reserve naming policy, community consultation and engagement was necessary.

John Lawson (Submission ID 5827)

- It was noted that staff had accepted many of the submitter's points.
- The submitter discussed ways of minimising climate change through promoting active transport.
- The submitter stated that having sheep instead of cattle grazing on council reserves would be less carbon intensive and better for people walking on the reserves.
- The submitter suggested planting Manuka on reserves, instead of grazing cattle, which would enable manuka honey to be harvested and sold.

- The submitter discussed carparks and was concerned about the amount of money Council spent on carparks in the district.

Resolved (Crs Beavis/Turner)

That the General Policies Reserve Management Plan Hearings Panel deliberates on the amendments to the draft plan to reflect the submissions.

CARRIED

INFHE2304/05

The meeting adjourned at 10:15am and resumed at 10:40am.

Angeline Greensill on behalf of Tainui o Tainui

- It was noted that the submitter originally indicated that they would not be attending the Hearing, however decided to attend the Hearing. The Committee agreed to hear their submission.
- The submitter discussed ongoing Treaty claims and co-governance and including it in the Plan.
- The submitter discussed prohibiting horses and vehicles on beaches in the district to prevent coastal erosion. The submitter stated that there needed to be stronger bylaws alongside monitoring and implementation in place to stop this from occurring.
- The submitter raised a concern about the lack of oversight of commemorative seats, such seats should only be reserved for people who live in the district. It was noted that this was out of scope for this Plan.
- The submitter stated that there should be penalties in place for the destruction and graffiti of Council signage.

DELIBERATIONS

- It was suggested that there should be an amendment to the policy to include ‘natural shade from trees rather than structures.

ACTION: Staff to update policy with the inclusion of shade from trees.

- A discussion was held on smoking and vaping in playgrounds. Submissions talked about providing spaces for people to smoke and vape, this was accepted in part. However, it was not consistent with Smokefree 2025.

ACTION: Policy to ban smoking and vaping on Reserves and playgrounds.

- A discussion was held around whether horse riding should be included in the policy.

ACTION: Staff to investigate whether horse riding should be mentioned in the plan or covered in the bylaw.

ACTION: Staff to expand/mention the benefits of environmental volunteers in the Plan.

ACTION: General Policies Reserve Management Plan to be updated to reference Taiao.

- Discussion was held around pastoral management and fencing waterways. It was suggested that a section be added on pastoral management. It was noted that the Strategic Property Team were currently undertaking work around this space.
- Discussion was held around reducing mowing and naturalising reserves.

ACTION: Staff to include or investigate adding a policy around naturalisation.

- A discussion was held on Sport Waikato's submission on the development of reserves. It was suggested that the policy could have an intent for any reserve to look for and encourage active modes of transport. It was noted that not all reserves would be appropriate for this but could be considered when new parks were in the planning stage.

ACTION: Staff to include consideration to reserves and active transport.

ACTION: Staff to include benefits of 'sports hubbing' in the plan.

- Discussion was held on co-management and co-governance. It was noted that the broader Council policy was co-governance.

ACTION: Plan to refer to Joint Management Agreement held agreements for reserves and acknowledge the long-term aspirations to work with mana-whenua.

- Discussion was held on the reserves naming policy in the Plan and the Tamahere Reserve. It was noted that name 'Maniapoto Reserve' had been offered by local iwi. Under the current policy there was no requirement for public consultation about the name if it was offered by iwi.
- The Subcommittee agreed that the reserve naming policy should remain as is.
- A discussion was held on if a reserves schedule should be included in the Plan. A concern was raised that the classification process for reserves hadn't been completed. It was noted that most Councils in New Zealand did not consistently classify all their reserves.
- It was suggested that a policy be included that stated Waikato District Council intended to undertake the process of classifying all its reserves. It was noted that the classification process would be time and resource intensive. Therefore, it would require a long-time frame to complete.

ACTION: Staff to investigate wording around classifying reserves under the Reserve Act.

WDC General Policies Reserve Management Plan

Submission from Tamahere Mangaone Restoration Trust

December 2022

Introductionary statement regarding the purposes of the plan.

The trust supports what is being said here. Council realises that it needs to engage in conservation with groups if it is to achieve its Biodiversity obligations.

Council needs to have an Engagement Strategy that does not seem to exist at present.

The Trust sees the need for a separate section in this 2022 Management Plan dealing with Scientific, Ecological and Natural Reserves. These are our special treasures and cannot be looked after with a once in a while visit from contractors. Hopefully each will have a Council supported care group to do this work. A point worth noting here if for the Hearing Panel to look at the WDC Natural Parks Plan and see a consistent “significant weed problems” theme. Looks like there is no local group showing the love.

Page 5: Other Council documents and legislation

The Trust has serious concerns the there is no mention of “risk assessment” on the likes of trees that can fall on to a road or for that matter on to a track. Recent local Coronial decisions must give Council a reason to have another look at the risks.

The Reserves Act supports the notion that the Plan has a strong focus on public engagement thereby allowing communities to shape the document.

To follow this through Council will have to have an Engagement Strategy and funding to support conservation groups. It is the view of the Trust that Council may also have to employ suitably qualified staff to work with the various volunteer groups in a collaborative way to ensure success.

Page 8: Section 1.2 Relationships with volunteer groups

Support the words used and hope some funding support can be

found.
Council must
have concerns as to how few groups there seem to be. Maybe a workshop will deliver some reasons for that?

The Trust would like to see this section (1.2) extended and to discuss Community Groups, for from these groups via the Blue Print process will sporn the needed care/conservation groups. Council have made great strides in recent years getting Boards and Committees going. The Blue Print have given communities a voice that then needs to be followed up with supportive actions.

Page 12: Section 1.4.2 Biodiversity

Tamahere Mangaone Restoration Trusts prime function is the rehabilitation of gullies in a manner that qualifies that rehabilitation to be a Scientific/Ecological Reserve in other words a wide range of plants will be planted with a view to the bush being sustainable in 10 years.

The Trust has achieved this in the Tamahere Reserve, Allan Turner Project and is in the way for 2 others. Biodiversity is what the Trust is about.

Over all the Trust supports what the Plan says.

The Trust would like to see an implementation Plan for Biodiversity.

Does Council have a current Biodiversity Strategy?

The Trust would like to see Council take a more active role in Pest Plant Management with WRC. Council will now be well aware that the likes of woolly nightshade and pampas are causing serious damage to out native bush. Along with Privet and Cherry our bush has no defence.

The Trust does not believe that Council should be involved in mammalian pest management. This is the role of WRC working with Pest Free 2050. Many groups have sprung up and are doing a great job...

Page37: Section 5.4 Reserve Naming

The trust has serious concerns that Council is giving itself the power to name a Reserve in our area without any consultation with the local community and if such consultation did take place, override the community's submissions.

Communities do not appreciate being ignored.

The Trust submits that it should not be up to a Council staffer to decide if the

naming process should be consulted on. With staff turnover at most Councils being what it is it is unlikely that staff will have the expertise to make that call.

As for only using names of deceased people for naming the Trust submits that there are cases of live people who have given over 20 years of service to conservation that deserve to be recognised.

The Trust notes that there is no reference to the walkways naming processes. Now that the Walking Access Commission can be involved, will all tracks be Reserves?

Appendix 1: Reserves maintained by Waikato District Council.

This appendix is referenced to as Schedule 1 in the 2015 General Policies document. The Trust is active in the gullies of Tamahere and this schedule appears to be missing some of the key areas we are working in.

1. Bilsthorpe Lane Reserve. Bilsthorpe Lane [Lot 25 DP 343310]
2. Bilsthorpe Lane Reserve. Bilsthorpe Lane [Lot 24 DP 343310]
3. There are several parcels of land on the Mangaone Stream between Tauwhare Road and the new highway that are not in the 2015 document schedule. [cannot be located in the schedule]

What is included at Bilsthorpe Lane is the WDC land [Lot 3 DPS 73948] This is classified as an esplanade reserve and is across the stream from council owned Reserve land.

The Tamahere Community Centre [2015 Document, page 62] is present but we believe it is listed under the wrong category.

For and on behalf of the Tamahere Mangaone Restoration Trust

Leo Koppens: Chairperson leok@xtra.co.nz

Russell Gibbs: Secretary russell.gibbs@xtra.co.nz

Shape Waikato - Draft General Policies Reserve Management Plan

no-reply@harvestdp.com
To russell.gibbs@xtra.co.nz

11/12/2022 20:27

Reply Reply all Forward Spam Delete Blacklist ☰

TMR Submission & Response.



Shape Waikato - Draft General Policies Reserve Management Plan

Thank you for your submission of the form Draft General Policies Reserve Management Plan through Shape Waikato

Thank you for your submission. Please find a copy of your submission below.

If you have indicated you would like to be heard, you will be contacted prior to the Hearing in early 2023.

Kind regards,
The Reserves Planning Team

Name

Russell Gibbs

Organisation (if applicable)

Tamahere Mangaone Restoration Trust

Postal address

37 Koppens Road, Tamahere

Postcode

3283

Email

russell.gibbs@xtra.co.nz

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

No

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

Do you have any further comments or feedback?

WDC General Policies Reserve Management Plan
Submission from Tamahere Mangaone Restoration Trust
December 2022

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The Trust sees the need for a separate section in this 2022 Management Plan dealing with Scientific, Ecological and Natural Reserves. These are our special treasures and cannot be looked after with a once in a while visit from contractors. Hopefully each will have a Council supported care group to do this work. A point worth noting here if for the Hearing Panel to look at the WDC Natural Parks Plan and see a consistent "significant weed problems" theme. Looks like there is no local group showing the love.

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For and on behalf of the Tamahere Mangaone Restoration Trust

Leo Koppens: Chairperson leok@xtra.co.nz

Russell Gibbs: Secretary russell.gibbs@xtra.co.nz

Submission on draft General Policies Reserve Management Plan 2022

To: **Waikato District Council**
Private Bag 544, Ngaruawahia 3742
shape.waikatodistrict@waidc.govt.nz

Submitter: **Tamahere Community Committee**

Contact: Charles Fletcher

Address for Tamahere Community Committee
Service: tamaherecommunitycommittee16@gmail.com

Phone: 021 964000

Email: tamaherecommunitycommittee16@gmail.com

The Tamahere Community Committee [TCC] was established by the Waikato District Council [WDC] to support the Councillors representing the Tamahere Ward. TCC members are publicly elected triennially and governed by the Council protocols for Community Boards and Committees.

This submission is made by the TCC representing the wider interests of the Tamahere Community and its population of over 6,000 living in a rural/country living environment.

Submission on: General Policies Reserve Management Plan 2022

Closing date for Submission: 12 December 2022

Project number: RMP2022/01

TCC **does wish to be heard** in support of this submission.

TCC is making this submission as a Community organisation.

Does TCC consider the updated draft address the vision, objectives and policies appropriately? Generally YES subject to the following comments.

TCC is making this submission focusing on wording which may be misinterpreted or may result in unintended consequences. Being heard enables proper communication and

understanding of views. Council staff and its officers change, so new Council personal generally only have the wording in front of them to work from and make decisions.

Does the Council intend that this General Policies Reserve Management Plan apply to all reserves or should it make a distinction between reserve types (e.g. are Scientific, Ecological and Natural Reserves to have different policies?)

1. **Treaty of Waitangi and Mana Whenua** is a dominant theme of the whole plan and reflects a current ideology addressing Maori issues. We understand the reasons.
2. This pendulum swing has merit so long as balance is not lost in the process. We would ask that the Council balances the interests of other cultures including the other party to the Treaty.
3. The distinction between “partners” and “stakeholders” is one which needs to be made with great care and caution.
4. **Para 1.2 Relationship with Volunteers and Partnerships.** TCC members are all **volunteers** and understand the importance of the role of volunteers in the community.
5. Volunteers have passion and seek to fill gaps and needs in the community. These initiatives are to be promoted, not suppressed.
6. Council is responsible for the “big picture” for the future of the district, making rules and administering those rules along with central Government regulations. This **regulatory role can suppress initiative and spontaneity** of the community and/or its volunteers, which is an undesirable consequence.
7. TCC, and volunteers it supports, have experienced frustration over recent years caused by Council, its rules and regulations. Our objective is to bring balance back to how Council progresses its relationships so that they can be positive and attractive for engagement in the future. Council and TCC have progressed positive and successful initiatives and intend that they should continue.
8. What the Council records under para 1.2 is expressed in reasonable terms **BUT the Council has failed to deliver**, particularly with responses in reasonable time frames. Therefore, Council needs to have agreed time frames to respond to **volunteer and partnership opportunities**, which the Council must respect.
9. Introducing “legalism” and detailed “health and safety requirements” has tied hands and frustrated the outcomes volunteers are offering to deliver. **Council must have more flexibility** in its approach to implementing volunteer and partnership opportunities, otherwise they will be lost.

10. This also applies to “**formal Council agreement**” terms – these need to reflect the spirit and intent of the volunteer and/or partnership opportunity and not become so onerous as to stifle the initiative.
11. **Para 1.3. Cultural and Historic Heritage** is to be respected but it should not be restricted to one culture.
12. 182 years on from the signing of the Treaty we have seen significant changes and integration of various cultures in New Zealand. All are important as we move forward, as our history is still developing. These should all be recognised and encouraged.
13. **Para 1.4.2. Biodiversity.** At para 2. C. and d. there is a focus on “indigenous” and “native species dominated” for plantings in reserves. Cambridge is a town with national and international mana where its tree plantings (in particular) are “exotic”.
14. The sameness promoted by this policy is not something TCC supports and it asks that **the Council modify the emphasis so as to allow a mix, or a theme, for plant and tree species** which is not dominantly “indigenous” or “native species dominated”.
15. **NZTA** has a dominant focus on “indigenous” and “native species”, evidenced by the SH1 corridor through the Waikato District, for cost saving reasons as there is less leaf litter. This is at the expense of some wonderful and colourful exotic species. We encourage the **Council to reconsider para 4 as this focus is too restrictive.**
16. **Para 2.2. Access & Parking.** Sub-para 4. g. does not reflect a need for “public event” parking at a reserve. Generically this is something Council needs to modify if no other parking is available in the vicinity.
17. **Para 3. Use of Reserves.** TCC wishes to focus on the specifics of the Tamahere Village reserve in making this submission.
18. The Tamahere Village concept was developed around a “piazza”. This is not a common concept in New Zealand but anyone who has visited Italy will have experienced the vibrancy of community activities in piazza areas through the seasons.
19. TCC seeks the full benefit and use of the Piazza area in the way that it was intended as a community space for bringing people together and celebrating the community.
20. Therefore, TCC is concerned that, the Objective and Policies in this section of the RMP, may **override the foundation “reason for being”** for the **Tamahere Village piazza** which is situated on a Council reserve.

21. We urge the Council to consider and address this concern so that the spontaneity of the community use of the piazza is not lost. It may not be possible to address this concern in the general wording in these Policies, so provision could be made for the Council to work with TCC to develop approved standard terms enabling events to take place within the **Tamahere Village piazza** which do not become tied up with “red tape” and ongoing need for paperwork to be filed for consents for every event.
22. At this stage TCC contemplates a volunteer event organiser could be appointed to promote regular community events so these need to follow a simple methodology for the facilities to be properly used. This would not apply to a paid commercial event.
23. **Para 4.4. Events.** TCC observes that the Council “Approvals framework” and any “events strategy” need to recognise the specific design and purpose of the Tamahere Village piazza and associated facilities.
24. TCC invites the Council to Partner with TCC to develop approved standards terms enabling events to take place within the **Tamahere Village piazza** without imposition of costs and repeating paperwork which will stifle the community. The community has funded the reserve within which the Tamahere Village has been established and has a vested interest in the success of events and protecting the resource.
25. **Para 3.2. Drones.** This is a new policy. It is needed.
26. Note: The **Hamilton Airport flight restriction zones** mean that many Tamahere properties are restricted as to where they can fly drones, so the use of Council reserves becomes a priority to serve the Tamahere community.
27. **Para 5.2. Waste.** TCC does NOT SUPPORT Council promoting generally “rubbish free” reserves nor the arbitrary right to install or remove litterbins.
28. The arbitrary nature of a Council decision for “user pays” by way of a “carry in/carry out” policy will not encourage waste minimisation in some locations.
29. The mandatory Policy that “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” may be valid for commercial paying events, but is strongly opposed by TCC for voluntary community events. Can you please modify the wording so that Council can distinguish between commercial events (paying and carrying full cost) and Volunteer events (where those attending are asked to clean up but with no fiscal penalty on the organiser).
30. The reserve, which serves the Tamahere Village, Tamahere Community Centre and the Tamahere Model Country School, is in daily use for a myriad of purposes and events. TCC has had to ask Council to add rubbish bins with TCC funding the capital cost from funds allocated for ongoing community use at Tamahere.

31. **Para 5.3. Public Health and Safety.** TCC supports smoke free and vape free outdoor public places policies that cover areas like playgrounds, parks, sports fields, reserves, and skate-parks.
32. **Para 5.4. Reserve Naming.** This includes policies for naming new reserves and renaming existing reserves.
33. At para 9. c. the Council contemplates “public consultation in partnership” with the local community board or committee. The extent of consultation is determined on a “case-by-case basis”. This is a concern and may not be appropriate.
34. TCC contemplates that Council should always consult with TCC for naming options in the Tamahere Ward, as it has done in the past, and **that a decision will never be made by Council without consultation** in Tamahere (as it relates to a naming issue in the Tamahere Ward only).
35. Para 2., states Council “does not require consultation on names proposed by mana whenua” and can determine that wider community approval is not required.
36. This wording and policy intent is **NOT SUPPORTED** by TCC.
37. Do these Policies need to address maintenance of reserves (e.g. control of noxious and undesirable weeds)?

TCC invites WDC to modify the draft General Policies Reserve Management Plan 2022 to address the concerns expressed in these submissions. Specifically:

1. Council should have agreed time frames to respond to **volunteer and partnership opportunities**, which the Council must respect.
2. Council must have **flexibility** in considering volunteer and partnership opportunities (so they are not lost) to reflect the spirit and intent of the volunteer and/or partnership opportunity and not become so onerous as to stifle the initiative. Any **“formal Council agreement”** terms need to avoid “legalism” and detailed “health and safety requirements” which may frustrate outcomes volunteers are offering to deliver.
3. Council to modify the biodiversity policies to allow a mix, or a theme, for plant and tree species which is not dominantly “indigenous” or “native species dominated” (e.g. a picnic or play area is best shaded with exotic trees like jacaranda, elm, oak).
4. Council to allow for “public event” parking at a reserve, if parking is restricted/limited.

5. Are these policies intended to apply to all reserve types or should there be a distinction according to the reserve type and purpose?
 6. TCC does NOT SUPPORT Council generally having all “rubbish free” reserves nor the arbitrary right to install or remove litterbins.
 7. Please modify the wording to distinguish between Commercial events (paying and carrying full cost) and Volunteer events (where those attending are to clean up but with no fiscal penalty on the organiser).
 8. TCC supports smoke free and vape free outdoor public places policies that cover areas like playgrounds, parks, sports fields, reserves, and skate-parks.
 9. TCC supports “public consultation in partnership” with the local community board or committee but **does not support** Council advancing consultation on a “case-by-case basis”.
 10. TCC does not support Council policies that do “not require consultation on names proposed by mana whenua” and which determine that “wider community approval is not required”.
 11. TCC invites the Council to Partner with TCC to develop approved standard terms enabling events to take place within the **Tamahere Village piazza** minimising costs and repeating paperwork, enabling the promotion of community and Volunteer events.
-

Charles Fletcher – Chair, and

Susan Robertson – Immediate Past Chair

Tamahere Community Committee

This submission is filed electronically with the WDC.