

Notice is hereby given that the Hearings Committee will be reconvene to deliberate on the Draft Reserve Management Plans on:

**Date:** Tuesday 26 September 2017  
**Time:** 5.00 pm  
**Meeting Room:** Council Chambers  
**Venue:** 126-148 Oxford Street  
Levin

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## Hearings Committee

### OPEN AGENDA

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#### MEMBERSHIP

<b>Chairperson</b>	Cr Jo Mason
<b>Members</b>	Cr Piri-Hira Tukapua Cr Bernie Wanden
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Mr Sam Wood
<b>Meeting Secretary</b>	Mrs Karen Corkill

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Full Agendas are available on Council's website  
[www.horowhenua.govt.nz](http://www.horowhenua.govt.nz)

Full Agendas are also available to be collected from:  
Horowhenua District Council Service Centre, 126 Oxford Street, Levin  
Foxton Service Centre/Library, Clyde Street, Foxton,  
Shannon Service Centre/Library, Plimmer Terrace, Shannon  
and Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, Bath Street, Levin



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File No.: 17/424

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## Draft Reserve Management Plans - Consideration of Submissions and Decisions

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### 1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to summarise and provide the officer's analysis of the submissions that were received during the consultation process for the Draft Reserve Management Plans that are currently under review, and provide a platform for the Hearings Committee to consider and make decisions on these submissions.
- 1.2 It is to also recommend that the Draft Reserve Management Plans, including any changes made as a result of the decisions on the submissions, be recommended by the Hearings Committee for adoption by the Council.

### 2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Council is required to have Reserve Management Plans (RMPs) for any reserves under its control, management or administration in accordance with Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1997. Council is also required to keep its RMPs under continuous review (Section 41(4) of the Reserves Act).
- 2.2 In 2013 officers commenced a staggered review of Council's RMPs. The RMPs for Waitarere, Ohau and Foxton are part of this staggered review.

### 3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That Report 17/424 Draft Reserve Management Plans - Consideration of Submissions and Decisions be received.
- 3.2 That this decision is recognised as not significant in terms of S76 of the Local Government Act
- 3.3 That members of the Hearings Committee consider submissions received on the Draft Reserves Management Plans, in accordance with section 41(6)(d) of the Reserves Act 1977.
- 3.4 That the Hearings Committee considers the feedback received from Ngati Huia and Tukorehe on the Draft Reserves Management Plans, and recommend to Council for the feedback to be included in the consideration of written submissions to the Draft Plans.
- 3.5 That the Hearings Committee, having taken into account the submissions received during the formal consultation process, recommends to Council the adoption of the Draft Reserve Management Plans for Waitarere Beach Reserves, Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve, Ohau River Reserves and Foxton Reserves as amended.
- 3.6 That the Group Manager – Strategy and Development together with the Chair of the Hearings Committee be given delegated authority to make editorial changes that arise as part of the publication process for producing the Reserve Management Plans for Waitarere Beach Reserves, Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve, Ohau River Reserves and Foxton Reserves.

#### 4. Background / Previous Council Decisions

- 4.1 In 2016 officers commenced the review of Council's currently operative Reserve Management Plans for the Waitarere Beach Reserves, Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve, Ohau River Reserves and Central Foxton Reserves.
- 4.2 There are two phases of consultation in preparing or reviewing RMPs under the Reserves Act 1977. The first phase of consultation, which involves Council publicly notifying its intent to review the RMPs, was undertaken during 2016 for the above mentioned reserves. During this phase of consultation community members were invited to send Council their comments and suggestions on the development and use of the reserves.
- 4.3 RMPs were then drafted by officers for the Waitarere Beach Reserves, Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve, Ohau River Reserve and Central Foxton Reserves. Following this the Draft Reserve Management Plans were then publicly consulted on as part of the second phase of consultation where submissions on the Draft Plans were sought.
- 4.4 The Draft Combined Waitarere Beach Reserves Management Plan, Draft Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve Management Plan and Draft Ohau River Reserves Management Plan were consulted on between 13 January and 17 March 2017. A total of 19 submissions were received on these Draft Plans.
- 4.5 Council officers met with Ngati Huia and Tukorehe during and after the consultation period on the Draft Combined Waitarere Beach Reserves, Draft Waitarere Foreshore Reserve and Draft Ohau River Reserves Management Plans. The hapu provided feedback on the Draft Plans and although not provided as a formal submission it has been recommended that the feedback be considered alongside the written submissions and has been included as part of this report.
- 4.6 The Draft Combined Foxton Reserves Management Plan was consulted on between 3 May and 3 July 2017. A total of 13 submissions were received on this Draft Plan; one of which was late (received 5 July 2017). The late submission was accepted for inclusion by the Hearings Committee at the Hearing of Submissions on 15 August 2017.
- 4.7 The below table identifies all the submissions, the Draft RMP(s) their submission was on and whether or not they were heard at the Hearing of Submissions.

Submitter	Draft Reserve Management Plan(s) that submission relates to	Heard at Hearing of Submissions?
Chris Wright	Draft Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve Management Plan	No
Patricia Hayward	Draft Combined Waitarere Beach Reserves Management Plan	No
Margaret Jeune	Draft Ohau River Reserves Management Plan	No
Joanna Sim	Draft Ohau River Reserves Management Plan	No
Tony Field	Draft Combined Waitarere Beach Reserves Management Plan	No
Alison and Anthony Timms	Draft Combined Waitarere Beach Reserves Management Plan Draft Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve Management Plan	No
Sam Ferguson	Draft Combined Waitarere Beach	No

	Reserves Management Plan	
Raewyn Tate	Draft Combined Waitarere Beach Reserves Management Plan Draft Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve Management Plan	Yes
Adam Canning on behalf of Wellington Fish and Game	Draft Ohau River Reserves Management Plan	No
Victoria Edmonds on behalf of New Zealand Motor Caravan Association	Draft Combined Waitarere Beach Reserves Management Plan Draft Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve Management Plan Draft Ohau River Reserves Management Plan Draft Combined Foxton Reserves Management Plan (separate submission)	Yes
Larry Hine on behalf of Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayer Association	Draft Combined Waitarere Beach Reserves Management Plan Draft Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve Management Plan	Yes
Stephanie Bowman on behalf of Department of Conservation	Draft Combined Waitarere Beach Reserves Management Plan Draft Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve Management Plan Draft Ohau River Reserves Management Plan	No
Gaye Harrison	Draft Ohau River Reserves Management Plan	Yes
Sarah Walsh	Draft Ohau River Reserves Management Plan	Yes
Pamela Robinson	Draft Ohau River Reserves Management Plan	Yes
Charles Rudd	Draft Combined Waitarere Beach Reserves Management Plan Draft Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve Management Plan Draft Ohau River Reserves Management Plan	Yes
Peter Wright	Draft Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve Management Plan	No
Malcolm Cotter	Draft Combined Foxton Reserves Management Plan	No
Terry Oliver-Ward	Draft Combined Foxton Reserves Management Plan	No

John Batt	Draft Combined Foxton Reserves Management Plan	No
Justine Street	Draft Combined Foxton Reserves Management Plan	No
Petrus	Draft Combined Foxton Reserves Management Plan	No
Amy Robinson on behalf of Department of Conservation	Draft Combined Foxton Reserves Management Plan	No
Junette Haronga	Draft Combined Foxton Reserves Management Plan	No
Bob Hoskins	Draft Combined Foxton Reserves Management Plan	No
Margaret Morgan-Allen and Rex Field on behalf of Ngati Hikitunga Te Paea	Draft Combined Foxton Reserves Management Plan	No
Robin Hapi on behalf of Foxton Rugby Club	Draft Combined Foxton Reserves Management Plan	Yes
David Batchelor on behalf of Coley Street School	Draft Combined Foxton Reserves Management Plan	No
Robin Hapi on behalf on Save Our River Trust (Late submission)	Draft Combined Foxton Reserves Management Plan	Yes

- 4.8 The Hearings of Submissions was held on 15 August 2017. Nine submitters, who had indicated they wished to be heard in the support of their submission, were heard at the Hearing.
- 4.9 In the following sections officers have summarized and analysed the submissions received, and recommended a number of amendments to the Draft RMPs.

## 5. Analysis of Submissions

### **Submissions on the Draft Combined Waitarere Beach Reserves, Draft Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve and Draft Ohau River Reserves Management Plans**

#### **Summary of submitter comments – Chris Wright (Submission 1)**

The submitter would like to restrict vehicles from driving on Waitarere Beach, especially near the Surf Lifesaving Club's safe swim area. The submitter highlights safety concerns with children.

#### Officer analysis

The Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve does not extend over the beach area. Council officers can discourage vehicles driving on the beach or encourage them to drive responsibly.

#### Officer recommendations

That officers acknowledge and thank Chris Wright for their submission.



### **Summary of submitter comments – Patricia Hayward (Submission 2)**

The submitter requests that Council increases the priority of erecting information signage to highlight the link between the Hyderabad Shipwreck and Holmwood Park. The submitter notes that it was interesting to learn about the connection and that it is not widely known.

#### **Officer analysis**

Holmwood Park was named after the Captain of the Hyderabad. Erecting a sign that acknowledges this and which provides some high level information on the Hyderabad including directing people to where the shipwreck is located is identified as an action for the Holmwood Park section of the Draft Reserve Management Plan.

This action currently has 'low' priority and officers consider this to be appropriate at this time. However, officers recognise that the Hyderabad Shipwreck is of particular significance/interest to locals and visitors. Given that the accreting coastline has buried the ship wreck, consideration will be given to opportunities that could raise the profile of the site of the wreckage and consider an interactive link with Holmwood Park.

#### **Officer recommendations**

That officers acknowledge and thank Ms Hayward for her submission.

That officers look at opportunities to raise the profile of the site of the Hyderabad Shipwreck and consider an interactive link with Holmwood Park as part of the Draft Plan's proposed action.

### **Summary of submitter comments – Margaret Jeune (Submissions 3 and 4)**

The submitter supports a number of the policies identified within the Draft Ohau River Reserves Management Plan.

These policies include: the potential development of a shared pathway between the reserves; management of weed species (with a view to preserving current snail populations); improving signage; improving access to facilities; the gazetting of the reserves (where not already gazetted); and clearing weeds and improving riparian planting at Kirkcaldies Reserve.

The submitter also requests that Muhunua East Road Reserve be made more accessible to the public.

#### **Officer analysis**

The submitter's support of the various policies identified in her submission is acknowledged.

With regard to the potential for creating a shared pathway that would connect the reserves along the Ohau River, this is something that officers will continue to discuss with the Horowhenua Shared Pathways Network Group.

The submitter's request for improved access to Muhunua East Road Reserve is acknowledged. However, this reserve has not been formerly developed as a reserve to date and its use is therefore restricted. Until Council have a clear understanding of how this

reserve might be developed in the future (e.g. if it is used as part of a shared pathway) it is recommended that access to it remain restricted.

#### Officer recommendations

That officers acknowledge and thank Ms Jeune for her submission.

That officers will amend the Draft Plan to reflect the submitter's suggestion to improve signage across the network of Ohau River Reserves.

#### **Summary of submitter comments – Joanna Sim (Submission 5)**

The submitter highlights the fact that these reserves are an asset.

The submitter notes that cattle and all other livestock need to be kept out of the Ohau River. She suggests that more riparian planting of native species should be undertaken but in consideration that the Ohau is a braided river. She makes specific reference to Kirkcaldies Reserve, suggesting that the weedy area south of the picnic area should be replanted.

The submitter identifies the mass planting of willows at Kimberley Reserve as a mistake and suggests they should be removed while they are still small trees. She attached a report on *'Effects of willow removal on Australian and New Zealand stream ecosystems – a literature review of the potential risks and benefits'* to her submission.

The submitter identifies litter as a probability for most of these reserves, as well as fly-tipping at Parikawau Reserve. She suggests the provision of more rubbish bins which are serviced more regularly as a way of tackling this issue.

#### Officer analysis

Officers note the submitters concerns about cattle entering the Ohau River. Water cleanliness management, including the exclusion of stock, is a function of the Regional Council not HDC and as such the fencing of waterways sits with Horizons Regional Council and individual property owners.

Officers are supportive of riparian planting and using native species where appropriate. The submitter's comments on the willow trees at Kimberley Reserve are noted. Horizons Regional Council are responsible for the willows, they have a policy on planting these to help stabilise river banks.

Officers acknowledge that litter can be an issue for these reserves but providing rubbish bins is not necessarily the answer. Rubbish bins can encourage people to leave additional rubbish rather than dispose of it responsibly. Council's policy mirrors that of the Department of Conservation where users are encouraged to take only photos and leave only footprints. Signs have recently been erected on a number of these reserves advising people not to dump rubbish and indicating that offenders will be prosecuted where practical.

#### Officer recommendations

That officers acknowledge and thank Ms Sim for her submission.

#### **Summary of submitter comments – Tony Field (Submission 6)**

The submitter notes that the Draft Reserve Management Plan does not include plans to define the northern boundary of the western end of Waitarere Domain which he considers necessary to address the problem of who owns the trees along that boundary.

The submitter also notes that the Draft Reserve Management Plan is full of policies and limited details about actions.

#### Officer analysis

A survey would be required to establish the northern boundary of Waitarere Domain, where it adjoins the submitter's property. This would help establish the ownership of the trees along the boundary. If Council owns the trees then Council can make a call on how best to maintain the trees or whether they require removal. If the submitter owns the trees then he can decide their future.

Officers can arrange for the northern boundary of Waitarere Domain to be surveyed. This can be done outside of the Reserve Management Plan process, as the Plan would not typically cover this detail.

The Draft Reserve Management Plan is 'higher level' as it provides direction to officers on the overall management and use of the reserves it covers. Detailed actions and designs for future development of the reserves will be covered in Development Plans.

#### Officer recommendations

That officers acknowledge and thank Mr Field for his submission.

As a result from the points raised by the submitter the following actions have been identified for officers to address outside of the Reserve Management Plan process:

- Officers explore surveying the northern boundary of Waitarere Domain, where it adjoins 637 Waitarere Beach Road.

### **Summary of submitter comments – Alison and Anthony Timms (Submissions 7 and 8)**

#### **Draft Combined Waitarere Beach Reserves Management Plan**

The submitters own a property that adjoins Holmwood Park and they indicate that they are supportive of the objectives and policies of the Draft Reserve Management Plan.

They note that Holmwood Park is well used, especially during the summer months. They indicate that they would like more play equipment provided at the Park such as a basketball hoop. They also suggest that the provision of another picnic table would be good.

#### Officer analysis

Officers recognise that Holmwood Park is popular with surrounding residents, especially during the summer months.

With regard to providing additional play equipment, this is something that can be considered as part of the preparing a Development Plan. The Development Plan will focus on the details of how a park/reserve will be developed over time. In preparing this plan officers will work with locals/key users to understand what is needed for the Park. The submitter's suggestion of a basketball hoop has been noted.

With regard to the request for an additional picnic table, it is noted that there is currently only a single picnic table at Holmwood Park, which is located in the north-western corner of the Park. Officers will assess the need for an additional picnic table, perhaps one that is closer to the playground.

## **Draft Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve Management Plan**

The submitters indicate that they are supportive of the objectives and policies of the Draft Reserve Management Plan.

They note that in relation to dune management they are keen to see the spraying programme continued at the Hydrabad entrance to control wild acacia.

The submitters suggest that property owners should be required to seek encroachment licences and pay an annual fee to encroach onto reserve land. They also suggest that a requirement of the licence would be that no fences or other means of blocking off reserve land be allowed.

Finally the submitters raised a concern that when the two main beach access ways are graded the debris is dumped on the main beach and that this can include sharp material which can be hazardous for people walking barefoot. As such the submitters request that the debris be dumped further away from the main user area.

### Officer analysis

The submitters support for the spraying of the wild acacia is noted, although this is a function of Horizons Regional Council.

Encroachment onto reserve land is not only an issue for the Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve but for quite a few other reserves across the district. It is particularly an issue where a property owner has constructed a fence or some other structure that impedes the public's free access to the reserve. Officers will continue to monitor this issue and deal with encroachments on a case-by-case basis. It is recognised that a district-wide policy for dealing with this issue is needed for the future.

The clearing of the main access ways is a function of Council's Roading Department and is not undertaken as part of the management of the Foreshore Reserve. As such officers will discuss with members of the Roading Team about appropriate disposal of material.

### Officer recommendations

That officers acknowledge and thank Mr and Mrs Timms for their submission.

As a result from the points raised by the submitter the following actions have been identified for officers to address outside of the Reserve Management Plan process:

- Officers visit Holmwood Park and assess whether an additional picnic table is required. If one is considered to be needed then officers will arrange for it to be installed.

## **Summary of submitter comments – Sam Ferguson (Submission 9)**

### **Wairarawa Stream Reserve**

The submitter supports the use of part of the reserve for a community garden and tractor storage. The submitter notes that the tractor is used for fishing boats and therefore, there is a need for wash down facilities and a means to deal with fish carcasses.

### Officer analysis

Officers note that there is a wash down area next to the Surf Lifesaving Clubrooms which should be used for washing down the tractor. The Reserve Management Plan focuses on Waitarere Beach being maintained and improved for ecological value rather than urban use.

It is not anticipated a fish cleaning station is appropriate for the area. Such a construction would be incongruent with the naturalistic setting of the beach and potentially need some significant input to maintain. Furthermore, it is not considered a fish gutting station would complement swimming and sunbathing at the beach. It is the view of officers that fish cleaning should be dealt with by fishermen/women at home.

### **Waitarere Rise**

The submitter notes that the Waitarere Rise area is well outside of the 400m and 800m pods for access to parks and reserves.

The submitter suggests that one way to rectify this is to work with the Waitarere Rise Society to form a joint strategy on reserves in that area. The submitter notes that the Society owns reserve land that is currently private and may be willing to partner with Council.

### Officer analysis

Officers note that Waitarere Rise is outside of the 400m and 800m ped sheds (which help identify properties that are typically within a 5 or 10 minute walk of a reserve or playground).

However, as the submitter indicates, the residents of Waitarere Rise have access to privately owned reserve land. Furthermore Waitarere Rise is zoned Greenbelt Residential and therefore, is made up of properties with larger sections (e.g. 4000-5000sqm) than standard residential for Waitarere Beach (e.g. 800-1000sqm). As such officers do not consider that the residents of Waitarere Rise have the same need to be within a 5 to 10 minute walk of a public reserve.

Officers however are open to having discussions with Waitarere Rise residents about how the benefits of the private reserves may be maximised for public use.

### Officer recommendations

That officers acknowledge and thank Mr Ferguson for his submission.

### **Summary of submitter comments – Raewyn Tate (Submission 10)**

#### **Draft Combined Waitarere Beach Reserves Management Plan**

The submitter expresses her disappointment that work on the Wairarawa Stream to Bagrie's Lake Walkway has stalled. She indicates that Horowhenua is missing out on an opportunity to attract tourists by not investing in the development of walkways such as this.

### Officer analysis

The submitter's comments are noted. As part of the most recent Annual Plan, Council committed \$250,000 towards the development of shared pathways over the next year.

The Wairarawa Stream to Bagrie's Lake Walkway has suffered some hold-ups and this is principally due to issues around access to private land. However, Council hopes that these issues can be resolved in the future.

#### **Draft Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve Management Plan**

*Surf Lifesaving Club and Car Park*

The submitter is supportive of the Surf Lifesaving Club building being more forward on the dunes. She notes that this is an opportunity for Council to extend the car park and put in a playground and picnic area on the foredunes. The submitter notes that many elderly people do not like to drive on the beach, but love watching the sea.

#### *Signage*

The submitter notes that the blue signs posts marking the walking tracks through the dunes are so deeply buried only their tips are showing.

#### *Horses*

The submitter requests that signage indicating that horses are prohibited from using the walking tracks should be erected at the end of the car park. She notes that horses are damaging the tracks and making them unsafe for walkers.

#### *Waitare Beach Road Access*

The submitter suggests that it would be more practical to erect a log retaining wall along the edge nearest to footpath to stop the continuous flow of sand on the footpath and road and the expense of contractors.

#### *Fire risk on the dunes*

The submitter raises concern about fire risk, indicating that because the dune area is covered in so many dry wood shrubs, dead lupin and dry grass she considers there to be a high risk of fire. The submitter indicates that the reason so many property owners mow the strip of reserve land in front of their property is for firebreak purposes. The submitter refers to an instance where a self-contained vehicle caused a fire previously and that it was lucky it was caught before it got out of hand.

#### *Weed control on the dunes*

The submitter raises a number of concerns regarding weed control and dune maintenance.

#### *Blowouts*

The submitter notes that when some blowouts were filled in a couple of years ago. Flax was planted where the sand was exposed; flax is not a suitable plant for foredunes. The submitter suggests that more responsibility should be taken when selecting grasses and plants.

#### Officer analysis

##### *Surf Lifesaving Club and Car Park*

The submitter's support for the Surf Lifesaving Club being more forward on the dunes is noted. However, the dunes are highly sensitive and the designation which has been approved to allow a new Surf Lifesaving Club building to be constructed more forward on the dunes was quite restrictive about additional sealed areas, and as such the car park will remain in its current location.

The dunes in front of the car park are planned to be re-shaped subsequent to the construction of the new Surf Lifesaving Club building. This would allow people to enjoy the view of the sea from the car park.



Construction of a playground and picnic area on the Foreshore Reserve is not considered to be consistent with the purpose of this reserve; which is to preserve the natural and ecological values of the reserve land whilst also facilitating people's enjoyment of Waitarere Beach. People can enjoy a picnic on the beach or they can go to Waitarere Domain, which has a range of play equipment as well as a barbecue area.

#### *Signage*

Officers are working with the Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association to improve signage along the beach, including the blue access markers. Although given that Waitarere Beach is an accreting beach, signs getting buried is likely to continue to be an issue.

#### *Horses*

Horse riders are encouraged to use the main access way from the car park to the beach. Officers will continue to direct horse riders to use the existing roading network to access the beach.

#### *Waitarere Beach Road Access*

The submitter's suggestion is noted. Officers are aware of the issue of sand blow and the main access way and further consideration needs to be given to how best deal with this issue.

#### *Fire risk on the dunes*

Officers note that the Foreshore Reserve is a total fire ban area. Officers do not encourage people to mow the reserve land; property owners should maintain their properties only.

Whilst the submitter may consider it appropriate to mow the strip in front of their property as a firebreak, reserve land is public land and exclusive use is not encouraged.

#### *Weed control on the dunes*

The submitter's concerns are noted. Officers can confirm that weed control on the dunes is a function of Horizons Regional Council. Although Horowhenua District Council does undertake an annual spinifex planting at Waitarere Beach to help maintain a natural dune profile and encourage dune stability.

#### *Blowouts*

The submitter's comments are noted.

#### Officer recommendations

That officers acknowledge and thank Ms Tate for her submission.

As a result from the points raised by the submitter the following actions have been identified for officers to address outside of the Reserve Management Plan process:

- Officers will continue to work with stakeholder groups to improve access and signage to the Foreshore Reserve, and continue to direct horse riders to use the existing roading network to access the beach.

#### **Summary of submitter comments – Adam Canning on behalf of Wellington Fish and Game Council (Submission 11)**

The submitter indicates that they are supportive of the actions identified in the Draft Reserve Management Plan.

The submitter requests that current access points along the Ohau River are maintained to allow continued use by anglers.

The submitter also seeks that along the immediate river edge that low lying, robust vegetation is planted so anglers have room to cast and that access tracks are developed in newly revegetated riparian.

#### Officer analysis

Officers need to liaise with the submitter to confirm where they consider the existing access points for anglers to be.

The submitter's preferences around riparian planting are noted, although officers can confirm that this is typically a function of Horizons Regional Council.

#### Officer recommendations

That officers acknowledge and thank the Wellington Fish and Game Council for their submission.

As a result from the points raised by the submitter the following actions have been identified for officers to address outside of the Reserve Management Plan process:

- Officers contact the Wellington Fish and Game Council and confirm where they consider the current access points for anglers to be in relation to reserve land.

### **Summary of submitter comments – Victoria Edmonds on behalf of New Zealand Motor Caravan Association Inc. (Submission 12)**

#### **Opening Comments**

The New Zealand Motor Caravan Association (NZMCA) indicates upfront in their submission that they encourage and support permissive policies that allow responsible freedom camping in certified self-contained (CSC) motorhomes and caravans (motor caravan), so that users can enjoy exploring the Horowhenua District without unreasonable or unnecessary restrictions.

The NZMCA's submission covers the Draft Combined Waitarere Beach Reserves Management Plan, the Draft Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve Management Plan and the Draft Ohau River Reserves Management Plan.

The submission starts by outlining some 'key comments and recommendations' which include:

- A recommendation that the Freedom Camping Act 2011 is inserted into the diagrams of each of the Management Plans in the section "Overview of Statutory Context".
- The NZMCA disagrees with the restrictive approach that the Parks and Reserves General Policy Document (the overarching document for all reserves) has towards camping on reserves in the Horowhenua.
- The NZMCA submits that Council should recognise the importance of freedom camping in its Reserve Management Plans and commends Council that motor caravans can legally park as of right on any Road Reserve within the District.



- NZMCA indicates that not identifying areas within the reserves that are suitable for responsible freedom camping is inconsistent with Objective 4.9.3 in the Parks and Reserves General Policy Document 2016, which is; *'That provision is made in specific reserves with appropriate facilities for campervans and rental vans to stay overnight'*. The submitter also indicates this is inconsistent with the actions for the 'Camping and Motor Homes' section of the General Policy Document.
- The NZMCA indicates in their submission that the Draft Reserve Management Plans do not allow for responsible overnight parking to occur on any reserves.
- The submitter notes that all of the reserves are identified at least in part as a recreation reserve, freedom camping is not inconsistent with the purpose of these reserves. Freedom camping is recognised as an important recreational activity under the Freedom Camping Act.
- The NZMCA requests that Council specifically mention that freedom camping is permitted in all reserves, unless prohibited in specific reserves.
- The NZMCA notes that both Foxton and Levin are classified as motorhome friendly towns under the NZMCA motorhome friendly town scheme, and it is disappointing that this approach is not being consistently implemented across the District through the Reserve Management Plans.

#### Officer analysis

Officers responses to the 'key comments and recommendations' are as follows:

- The diagram that highlights some of the key statutes, plans, strategies and regulations and their relationship with Reserve Management Plans is not meant to be exhaustive. There are many other statutes etc that have a relationship with Reserve Management Plans which are not identified (e.g. the Dog Control Act). Officers do not think it is necessary to amend this diagram for these Reserve Management Plans. The diagram is common across all the Plans and should be consistent.
- Council's Parks and Reserves General Policy Document has recently been reviewed and was adopted in April 2016, follow public consultation. The current approach to not allow camping on reserves was intentional as not all reserves are considered appropriate for camping. Furthermore the objectives and policies of the General Policy Document have been adopted and to revise them would require this document to be reviewed again.
- Camping is provided for on several reserves throughout the District. However, while providing for this activity on appropriate reserves is important, many of our reserves serve other purposes (e.g. sports grounds or neighbourhood reserves) which is the focus of their respective Reserve Management Plans.
- Officers do not consider the Reserve Management Plans to be inconsistent with Objective 4.9.3 in the Parks and Reserves General Policy Document. Provision has been made on several reserves across the District for campers to stay overnight, including Kimberley Reserve and Parikawau Reserve.
- The statement that Council does not allow for responsible overnight parking to occur on any reserves is incorrect. Camping is provided for on Kimberley Reserve and Parikawau Reserve.
- The submitter's comments are noted. Officers consider that camping has been provided for on appropriate reserves covered by these Reserve Management Plans. While other reserves may be at least in part recreational they are not considered to be appropriate for camping (e.g. Holmwood Park is a small neighbourhood reserve and has no vehicular access or Gladstone Reserve is prone to flooding and does not have an appropriate warning system in place).
- Officers support the current approach which is to provide for camping on specific reserves where it is considered that this use is appropriate rather than allowing it to occur on every reserve.

- The submitter's comments are noted. Officers welcome camping at appropriate places within our District but maintain that reserves serve a variety of purposes and camping is not an appropriate use for every reserve.

### **Draft Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve Management Plan**

The NZMCA notes that several of the parcels that make up this reserve are either recreational reserve or local purpose - road reserve and therefore should provide for camping. The NZMCA also submits that Council:

- Include the Freedom Camping Act 2011 in the diagram of national legislation that needs to be considered when preparing a reserve management plan.
- Add a policy to ensure the management plan duly recognises the importance and value of freedom camping to the public and communities. *'Freedom camping in a certified self-contained vehicle is allowed in all parts of the WAITARERE BEACH FORESHORE RESERVE, unless prohibited in specific reserves, and provided all conditions for freedom camping are complied with'*.
- Add a policy that alludes to the fact that freedom camping in motor homes is permitted in the areas vested as Road Reserves within the Management Plan. *'Freedom camping in motor homes is permitted in areas of the reserve that are identified as Road Reserves'*.

#### Officer analysis

The parcels that make up the Foreshore Reserve are a mix of reserve types which is reflective of how this reserve has developed over time.

This reserve is highly sensitive in nature and officers would not want to encourage people to drive or park on areas other than the identified access ways. At this stage officers do not consider it necessary to provide for camping on any part of this reserve.

### **Draft Combined Waitarere Beach Reserves Management Plan**

The submitter notes that Council does not provide for camping on any of the reserves covered by this Reserve Management Plan (being Waitarere Domain, Holmwood Park and Wairarawa Stream Reserve).

The NZMCA suggests that not providing for camping on these reserves is inconsistent with the purpose of them.

The submitter argues that not recognising freedom camping in reserve management plans to protect commercial revenue streams is contrary to the provisions in other relevant Acts.

The NZMCA also submits that Council:

- Include the Freedom Camping Act 2011 in the diagram of national legislation that needs to be considered when preparing a reserve management plan.
- Add a policy to ensure the Management Plan duly recognises the importance and value of freedom camping to the public and communities. *'Freedom camping is allowed in all reserves within WAITARERE BEACH, unless prohibited in specific reserves, and provided all conditions for freedom camping are complied with'*.

#### Officer analysis

Officers do not consider it appropriate to provide for camping on these reserves.

Waitarere Domain and Holmwood Park provide space for locals and visitors to enjoy picnics, play sports and use the play equipment. These reserves are not overly large and providing

for camping on them could restrict other people's use of them. Camper vans have the option of parking alongside these reserves, on road reserve if they wish to access and enjoy the open space.

Wairarawa Stream Reserve functions largely as a walkway alongside the stream which people can use to access Waitarere Beach. Planting has been undertaken on this reserve to help beautify this strip as well as stabilise the stream banks and dunes. Officers do not consider this reserve to be appropriate reserve for camping.

The reason for not providing for camping on these reserves is not because Council is trying to encourage people to use the local camp grounds but rather it is because camping and the associated effects are not considered appropriate on these reserves.

### **Draft Ohau River Reserves Management Plan**

The NZMCA would like to see freedom camping provided for on all of the Ohau River Reserves.

The NZMCA also submits that Council:

- Include the Freedom Camping Act 2011 in the diagram of national legislation that needs to be considered when preparing a reserve management plan.
- Add a policy to ensure the Management Plan duly recognises the importance and value of freedom camping to the public and communities. 'Freedom camping is allowed in all reserves within Ohau, unless prohibited in specific reserves, and provided all conditions for freedom camping are complied with'.
- Add a policy to the Gladstone Reserve section that 'Due to flooding concerns, freedom camping is restricted to the metal car park all year around'.

#### Officer analysis

Officers do not consider it appropriate to provide for freedom camping on all of the reserves covered by this Reserve Management Plan.

Gladstone Reserve, Kirkcaldies Reserve and the Access way off Muhunua East Road are all prone to flooding; with the Ohau River being known to rise rapidly. The submitter notes that campervans can evacuate quickly, however, there is no warning system in place at these reserves to alert people to the danger. Kimberley Reserve is also prone to flooding but a warning system is in place.

### **General Comments on the Plan**

#### *Statutory Considerations*

The submitter outlines 'statutory considerations' With regard to the Freedom Camping Act, the Reserves Act, the Resource Management Act and the Local Government Act.

#### *Freedom Camping – A Permitted Activity*

The submitter outlines Parliament's intent on introducing the Freedom Camping Act and indicates that freedom camping is an important 'kiwi tradition'. The NZMCA would like Council to take a permissive approach to freedom camping on its reserves.

#### *Benefits of a Permissive Regime*

The NZMCA outlines the economic, social and environmental benefits of providing for freedom camping.

### Officer analysis

#### *Statutory Considerations*

The submitter's comments are noted in relation to the 'statutory considerations'. The Reserve Management Plans have been developed in line with the Reserves Act and camping is provided for on reserves where it is considered an appropriate use. The Reserve Management Plans need to provide for a wide range of uses for the benefit of the community. Reserves serve a variety of purposes, not just as a place for people to camp.

If Council develops a Freedom Camping Bylaw in the future then officers would ensure that policies were consistent across other Council plans and strategies.

#### *Freedom Camping – A Permitted Activity*

Officers remain supportive of the current approach to freedom camping, which is to provide for it on appropriate reserves. By providing for it on appropriate reserves would-be campers have local freedom camping options if this is their preference.

#### *Benefits of a Permissive Regime*

The submitter's comments are noted.

### Officer recommendations

That officers acknowledge and thank the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association for their submission.

### **Summary of submitter comments – Larry Hine on behalf of Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayer Association (Submission 13)**

#### **General Comment**

##### *Long Term Planning*

The Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayer Association (WBPRA) state that their interpretation of this process is the plans set the guidelines and the resulting action points act as a basis for incorporation into the funding or long term planning process.

The WBPRA indicate that while the plans cover points raised from the pre-consultation in a general sense they are non-committal nor aspirational, and that they do not see the proposed plans adding to the area.

##### *Tourism*

The submitter notes that tourism and the area as a destination is not mentioned.

##### *Connection to Go Levin and Shared Pathways Strategy*

The WBPRA queries what are the links to Go Levin and the Shared Pathways Strategy?

##### *Prioritisation of Actions*

The WBPRA also asks what the prioritisation of actions means practically and query how some actions that were identified in the current Reserve Management Plans (which are roughly 17 years old) can still be 'low priority'.

#### *Strategy/Vision*

The submitter asks can we incorporate strategy and vision into the policies as well as the compliance and procedural aspects?

#### Officer analysis

#### *Long Term Planning*

The development of Reserve Management Plans is a legal requirement under the Reserves Act. These plans tend to be more 'high level' as they set the context and policies for development of local reserves. Individual 'Development Plans' such as the one for Waitarere Domain must be in line with the overarching framework of the relevant Reserve Management Plan. The projects in the Development Plans determine funding applied for under the Long Term Plan. Although it is noted that Development Plans have no legal status.

#### *Tourism*

Reserve Management Plans deal with the management and use of reserves, not external factors such as the facilitation of tourism. Hence there is reference to Waitarere Domain as an 'important recreational space for residents and visitors' in its Vision under section 3.5 and the Vision for Holmwood Park is for a 'neighbourhood reserve'.

However, given the fact that the current structure of the Reserve Management Plans adopt an area-based approach by way of looking at local needs/pressures there is some merit in recognising the part tourism plays in beach side communities in Section 2 of the Combined Waitarere Beach Reserve Management Plan.

#### *Connection to Go Levin and Shared Pathways Strategy*

The submitter refers to 'Go Levin' and the Shared Pathways Strategy. Officers do not believe that 'Go Levin' is currently active so it will not be further referenced in this analysis.

The Shared Pathways Strategy is a separate document that deals with the development of a shared pathways network within the Horowhenua. The potential network will have community features as well as inter-regional features. It is the community element of most relevance to the Reserve Management Plan in the development of potential linkages between reserves in the Waitarere Beach community. The Plans recognise the importance of creating better links between them and Council in conjunction with the Horowhenua Shared Pathways Network will explore specific projects.

#### *Prioritisation of Actions*

Priorities have been assigned to actions based on the level of importance that a particular action is considered to have in relation to a particular reserve. Actions may be on-going and it is possible that some actions identified in current plans are still actions for these reviewed plans.

Actions do not have specific timeframes associated with them. An action of high priority for one reserve may be undertaken within months whereas a high priority action may take longer for another reserve. This depends on the nature of the action including the

effects/benefits associated with it, as well as the reserve it is associated with. Officers have limited resources available; prioritisation helps to identify how the resources should be used.

### *Strategy/Vision*

The Reserve Management Plans do contain a Vision for each of the reserves identified and individual Policies which aim to achieve the Vision.

These Plans are not to be confused with a 'Town Strategy' (or similar document) which would focus on the whole town and create a vision/strategy for it in a more holistic way. Reserve Management Plans focus on the management and use of reserves.

## **Draft Combined Waitarere Beach Reserves Management Plan**

### *Waitarere Domain*

The submitter indicates that they are pleased with the recent developments that have occurred at this reserve.

The WBPRA would like to see older children better catered for in the future.

They reference the Development Plan that is currently under development and query why it has not been given a high priority.

### *Holmwood Park*

The WBPRA request the following in relation to this Park:

- Preparing a Development Concept Plan with local input be given a medium-high priority, as it fits into the discussions we have had with Council on the Domain.
- The Captain Holmwood link is important to the area and an information board would be low cost.

### *Park Avenue Horowhenua Council Owned Property*

The submitter notes that there is a bare section at the northern end of Waitarere and that it could be beneficial to develop it as this area is currently outside of the ped shed.

### *Waitarere Forest and Access*

WBPRA see Waitarere Forest as an important recreational access and would like Council to enter discussions on how this be utilised by locals. They would like to see better access to the Forest provided.

### *Wairarawa Stream Reserve*

The WBPRA make the following observations/requests for this reserve:

- They are pleased the proposed walkway to at least Bagrie lakes has been given a medium-high rating.
- The ecology of the stream has not been given an action.
- Managing pest plants growing in the Stream such as water celery should be given a high priority.

## Officer analysis

### *Waitarere Domain*



The submitter's comments are noted. The Reserve Management Plan aims to encourage a wider cross section of individuals and groups to be able to use and enjoy Waitarere Domain. Ideas for play equipment that could better cater for other children/youths can be confirmed in the Development Plan.

Officers note that reference to 'preparing' a Development Plan under section 3.8 Action is an error. A Development Plan has already been prepared and just needs to be finalised. An outline budget following consultation with the WBPRA is in place and will be presented to the Long Term Plan 2018-38 as a line item, available for submissions and deliberations. Officers recommend that the Action be amended to 'Finalise the Development Plan for Waitarere Domain' and be given a 'high' priority.

#### *Holmwood Park*

While officers note the WBPRA's comments at this stage there are limited resources available and as such officer's focus for now is on Waitarere Domain as the main formal recreational space.

Officers recognise that the Hyderabad Shipwreck is of particular significance/interest to locals and visitors and as such will look at opportunities to raise the profile of the site of the wreckage and consider an interactive link with Holmwood Park.

#### *Park Avenue Horowhenua Council Owned Property*

The submitter's comments are noted and this site is referenced in general terms in section 2.1. The site is not gazetted or currently managed as public reserve which is why it is not included in the reserve management plan.

Only a handful of properties at the northern end of Waitarere currently fall outside of a 5 minute walk to the Foreshore Reserve; with all being within a 10 minute walk. As such they are considered to have appropriate access to a reserve.

Should it be determined the site is (or will become) an integral part of the local leisure and recreation offering, development proposals can be identified and discussed outside of the Reserve Management Plan and incorporated into it at a later date.

#### *Waitarere Forest and Access*

The submitter's comments are noted but as indicated in their submission the Forest is in private ownership and as such it is outside the general scope of the Combined Reserve Management Plan.

Potential access to the site can be discussed and agreed outside of the Reserve Management Plan process with the owners.

#### *Wairarawa Stream Reserve*

Officers note the submitter's comments in relation to Wairarawa Stream.

Whilst an action is not explicitly stated that the ecological value of the Stream be improved it is implicit in the Vision and throughout the various Policies that relate to it.

The submitter specifically references water celery as an issue. Local hapu have raised a concern that should the water celery be removed without the replacement of a more

appropriate indigenous aquatic plant it could have a negative impact on eel and fish habitats during high flows. Discussions with local iwi/hapu are on-going at this stage.

## **Draft Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve Management Plan**

### *Initial Comments*

The WBPRA point out some matters that they raised as part of pre-consultation that have not made it into the Plan, these are:

- The importance of the area as a destination and providing facilities that enhance this e.g. a filleting station, elevated viewing platform and picnic area.
- The Hyderabad wreck as a destination.
- Horizons responsibility for the first 200 metres inland from the first line of vegetation.
- Waitarere Ratepayers pay a target rate to Horizons for vegetation control.

### *Community Involvement*

The submitter requests that instead of Council talking individually with interested parties, there should be periodic meetings of the interested parties together. They identify Horowhenua District Council, Horizons Regional Council, Maori and WBPRA as key interested parties.

### *Encroachment*

The WBPRA note that this has been happening for years. If one person develops the reserve, the next person believes it is acceptable. The WBPRA suggest that deal with this issue should be given a higher priority.

### *Dune Control – Blowout maintenance and contouring*

The WBPRA seek greater clarity on Council's approach to blowout maintenance and request that it be a high priority as early response to blowouts lessens the cost later.

### *Vegetation Control*

The submitter notes that currently Horizons Regional Council organise a contractor to spray or remove vegetation and this cost is paid by targeted rate. The submitter suggests Council should take more of a lead in controlling vegetation rather than the low priority action status given.

### *Stream Movement*

The WBPRA note that recently the stream has been moving South and this upsets the current beach entrance. This should be a consideration for the future.

### *Vehicle Access*

The submitter requests that the maintenance of beach access points be given a high priority.

### *Stormwater Outlets*

The submitter requests that investigation into stormwater drainage issues be given a high priority.

### Officer analysis



*Initial Comments*

As noted above Reserve Management Plans deal with the management and use of reserves, not external factors such as the facilitation of tourism. However, Section 2 can be amended to mention tourism and how the beach is a tourist attraction.

The Foreshore Reserve is a dynamic and sensitive environment and falls within an Outstanding Natural Feature and Landscape under the Horowhenua District Plan. This does restrict what can be constructed within the Foreshore Reserve. The dunes in front of the car park are planned to be re-shaped which will mean that visitors will be able to enjoy a view of the beach from the car park if they do not wish to venture on to the beach.

Fishermen/women are currently encouraged to take their catch home with them; fillet it and deal with the carcass there. A filleting station would require ongoing maintenance which officers consider would be disproportionate to the niche market served and potentially be detrimental to other forms of recreation specifically in relation to swimming/sunbathing.

Officers will look into opportunities to raise the profile of the site of the Hyderabad Shipwreck.

Horizons Regional Council's responsibilities and what they rate for is beyond the scope of this Reserve Management Plan.

*Community Involvement*

The submitter's suggestion is noted.

*Encroachment*

Encroachment issues are a District wide problem and require a district-wide policy to ensure Council is acting in a fair and transparent manner. Officers will continue to monitor this issue and deal with encroachments on a case-by-case basis, until such a policy is developed.

*Dune Control – Blowout maintenance and contouring*

The submitter's observations are noted. The current policy is to approach the issue on a case-by-case basis.

*Vegetation Control*

Horizons Regional Council is primarily responsible for weed control. Council's undertakes some work, most notably planting, to help ensure that the dunes are stable.

*Stream Movement*

The submitter's comments are noted.

*Vehicle Access*

The submitter's comments are noted but at this stage officers consider the priority to be appropriate. After storm events there are generally higher priorities that require Council's attention.

*Stormwater Outlets*

The submitter's observations are noted. Officers are working with the Infrastructure Team on this matter.

### Officer recommendations

That officers acknowledge and thank the Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association for their submission.

That Section 2 of the Combined Waitarere Beach Reserves Management Plan and the Waitarere Foreshore Reserve Management Plan be amended to recognise the part tourism plays for this beach side community.

That the table under Section 3.8 the action be amended to state 'Finalise the Development Plan for Waitarere Domain' and that this action be given a high priority.

That officers look at opportunities to raise the profile of the site of the Hydrabad Shipwreck and consider an interactive link with Holmwood Park as part of the Draft Plan's proposed action.

### **Summary of submitter comments – Stephanie Bowman on behalf of Department of Conservation (Submission 14)**

#### **General comments**

The Department of Conservation (DoC) notes that it is general supportive of Council's management intentions for these reserves but requests that Council consider the following points:

- It is highly desirable that reserves are classified before a management plan is drafted, otherwise the purpose of the reserve(s) is unclear and section 41(3) of the Reserves Act cannot be satisfied.
- The plans should clearly record: whether the reserves are vested in, or controlled and managed by, Council; and that Council holds delegation from the Minister of Conservation for various management actions within the reserves under the Reserves Act.
- The use of imprecise terms (e.g. appropriate) within objectives and policies should be avoided. The Director-General encourages the use of 'will', 'should' or 'may' within policies that guide decision making.
- There should be a policy link between relevant bylaws and the Management Plans.
- No reference was found to having regard to the Treaty of Waitangi obligations including how iwi values are captured and this should be addressed.

### Officer analysis

Officers responses to the matters raised are as follows:

- Council maintains a range of different types of land including reserves; open space; DoC land; and private reserves for the benefit of its residents. Where a reserve has been Gazetted Council will maintain the land in line with its reserve classification. Where land is not classified but abuts reserve land it will be stated within the plan that although it is not a formal reserve it is being managed in line with the reserve classification. Officers recognise the need to 'tidy up' the classification of reserve land.
- The submitter's reference to recording ownership/management is noted. Officers have endeavoured to do this under the 'Legal Description' and 'Council Classification' sections of each plan. Officers will consider how this can be made clearer.
- The submitter's reference to terminology is noted. Officers will check the policies of the plans and amend the language where necessary to provide better direction.
- The submitter's reference to bylaws are noted.

- The submitter's reference to the Treaty of Waitangi is noted. Officers contacted iwi/hapu and encouraged their input into the Plans. Although we did not receive formal submissions from them we were provided with some feedback and it will be incorporated into the final Plans.

### **Draft Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve Management Plan**

DoC notes the following about this Reserve Management Plan:

- Land that is not formal reserve cannot be covered by a reserve management plan. DoC suggests that Council either wait until the land is formal reserve before proceeding with the development of the reserve management plan or amend the plan to make it clear which parts are subject to the Reserves Act and which are not.
- 'Foreshore' is the name that applies to the area between mean low and mean high water marks.
- Policy 3.8.1.9 unnecessarily states that activities must comply with legislation and the District Plan.

#### Officer analysis

Officers responses to the matters raised are as follows:

- The submitter's comments are noted and officers recommend that the Plans be reviewed to ensure it is clear which parts are subject to the Reserves Act and which are not.
- The submitter's comments are noted. The Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve is the name this reserve is known by.
- Policy 3.8.1.9 has been included to make it clear to people and officers that other legislation applies and that activities may require consent under that legislation. The Plan is not specific about what type of consent because this would vary depending on what someone would like to do.

### **Draft Combined Waitarere Beach Reserves Management Plan**

DoC notes the following about this Reserve Management Plan:

- With regard to Waitarere Domain, under section 16(7) of the Reserves Act, a 'domain' is to be controlled and managed as a recreation reserve, pending its classification under the Act. If it is a local preference, the name 'domain' can still be used but it is not its legal classification.
- The classification of the Wairarawa Stream Reserve needs to be clarified.

#### Officer analysis

Officers responses to the matters raised are as follows:

- Section 3.3 of the Plan can be amended to note that this reserve is treated as a recreation reserve in accordance with section 16(7) of the Reserves Act. Waitarere Domain will be continued to be known as this for the foreseeable future as it is the name people recognise.
- The submitter's comments are noted. Much of the land that has been identified as part of the Wairarawa Stream Reserve is not formal reserve. Officers will review the Plan to ensure it is clear.

### **Draft Ohau River Reserves Management Plan**

DoC notes the following about this Reserve Management Plan:

- That the two parcels of land adjoining the eastern end of Gladstone Reserve are marginal strips and are best described as 'public conservation land administered by the Department of Conservation'.

- Lot 1 DP 10440 would not require subdivision from other parcels before it Council be classified as a recreation reserve.
- DoC seeks clarification about where the gravel extraction is occurring in relation to Kimberley Reserve.
- DoC notes that recreational values appear to be of greater focus in sections 4.5 and 4.6 then scenic values, which is inconsistent with the purpose of the reserve.
- DoC queries the status of Kirkcaldies Reserve. They also want to know how the adjoining farming encroachment will be resolved.
- DoC notes that restricting access to the Access way off Muhunoa East Road may be contrary to the Reserves Act. They also note that the grazing of Section 95 should be addressed.
- DoC seeks great clarity about the status of Parikawau Reserve.

#### Officer analysis

Officers responses to the matters raised are as follows:

- The Plan can be amended to describe the two parcels administered by DoC as requested.
- The submitter's comments about the classification of Lot 1 DP 10440 are noted.
- Officers recommend that section 4.1 be amended to remove this sentence 'Gravel extraction from the River currently takes place on the western side of Kimberley Reserve.' Gravel is extracted from the river and this sentence does imply it occurs on the reserve itself as well.
- Officers will look at sections 4.5 and 4.6 of the Plan and consider how greater emphasis can be placed on the scenic values of Kimberley Reserve.
- At least part of Kirkcaldies Reserve is 'stopped road'. This reserve is not formally gazetted and this will be made clear in the Plan. Officers hope to address this in the future. Encroachment onto Council land is an issue across the District and a district wide policy for dealing with this issue is needed.
- The submitter's observations in relation to the Access way off Muhunoa East Road are noted. Officers will investigate the matters further.
- Parikawau Reserve is made up of Part Section 79 only, as identified in the Plan. It is officers understanding that 'Parikawau' is the correct name for the reserve; it is unclear why the road is named 'Parakawau'.

#### Officer recommendations

That officers acknowledge and thank the Department of Conservation for their submission.

That officers check the policies of the Reserve Management Plans and amend the language where necessary to provide better direction and more clarity.

That officers incorporate feedback provided by iwi/hapu into the Reserve Management Plans.

That the Reserve Management Plans are reviewed to ensure it is clear which parts are formal reserve land and therefore subject to the Reserves Act and which are not, and that the classification of reserves shall be explored.

That Section 3.3 of the Combined Waitarere Beach Reserves Management Plan be amended to note that this reserve is treated as a recreation reserve in accordance with section 16(7) of the Reserves Act.

That Section 3.1 of the Ohau River Reserves Management Plan be amended to describe Sections 82 and 85 Waiopahu Block VI as 'public conservation land administered by the Department of Conservation'.

That section 4.1 of the Ohau River Reserves Management Plan be amended to remove this sentence: 'Gravel extraction from the River currently takes place on the western side of Kimberley Reserve.'

That officers will look at sections 4.5 and 4.6 of the Ohau River Reserves Management Plan and consider how greater emphasis can be placed on the scenic values of Kimberley Reserve.

### **Summary of submitter comments – Gaye Harrison (Submission 15)**

The submitter notes that there are quite a number of sections with no title and queries who administers them.

The submitter also queries who grants permission for gravel extraction and what area do they operate from. She suggests that there should be no gravel extraction for the next three years to give nature a chance to repair.

The submitter notes that the reserve is a popular place but no longer has an organised dog exercise area.

The submitter expresses concern about the planting of the willows trees and that no one will have access to the water to swim.

The submitter also expresses concern that the current maintenance of the Gladstone and Kimberley Reserves is minimal.

The submitter supports the development of a pathway linking up the reserves.

### **Officer analysis**

Parcels are administered by the owner or organisation responsible for their management, regardless of whether they have a title.

Gravel extraction may require consent from both Horizons Regional Council and Horowhenua District Council. Horizons Regional Council is the consent authority for removal of gravel from the river bed. Horowhenua District Council is the consent authority if there is a non-compliance with the District Plan. These consents are applied for and assessed under the Resource Management Act 1991. This is separate to the Reserve Management Plan process.

Gladstone Reserve and Kimberley Reserve are identified as unleashed areas for dogs in Council's Dog Control Bylaw. Officers do not consider an organised dog exercise area to be necessary in a scenic reserve but do encourage dog owners to act responsibly and watch their dogs while they are unleashed.

The submitter's comments about the willow trees are noted. Horizons Regional Council are responsible for the willows, they have a policy on planting these to help stabilise river banks.

With regard to the submitter's concerns on the current maintenance of the reserves, as scenic reserves during the winter period officers will not mow the grass as frequently as they would in the summer when the reserves are more utilised.

### Officer recommendations

That officers acknowledge and thank Gaye Harrison for her submission.

As a result from the points raised by the submitter the following actions have been identified for officers to address outside of the Reserve Management Plan process:

- Officers contact Horizons Regional Council to gain information on any current gravel extraction consents in the Ohau River near Kimberley and Gladstone Reserves.

### **Summary of submitter comments – Sarah Walsh (Submission 16)**

This submission relates to Kirkcaldies Reserve and the Access way off Muhunua East Road. The submitter supports the Access way off Muhunua East Road being made into a viable access to the Ohau River. The submitter also supports the enhancement of the accessibility of the swimming spot at Kirkcaldies Reserve.

The submitter considers that Ohau has ‘drawn the short straw’ recently and that it would be good to see money being spent on making the ‘unknown treasures’ of our District more accessible and encourage outdoor activities.

The submitter suggested the council could build a path under the railway bridge from the Parikawau Reserve to link up with the other Ohau River Reserves.

### Officer analysis

The submitter’s comments are noted.

Officers may consider how the Access way off Muhunua East Road could be used in conjunction with other reserves to form a shared pathway in the future. For now access to this reserve is to remain restricted.

Officers recognise that Kirkcaldies Reserve is used as an access point to a swimming hole and this access is to be retained.

Officers will consider installing interpretational/story boards in the Ohau River Reserves to raise the profiles of the reserves and area.

### Officer recommendations

That officers acknowledge and thank Sarah Walsh for her submission.

That officers amend the Draft Ohau River Reserves Management Plan to improve the use of wayfinding signage and investigate the use of storyboards in reserves along the Ohau River.

### **Summary of submitter comments – Pamela Robinson (Submission 17)**

The submitter makes a number of points in her submission which are briefly outlined below:

- The submitter is supportive of creating a shared pathway between the Ohau River Reserves. She asks that Council consider extending this pathway to connect the reserves and the river to town. She highlights the benefits of providing safe, off road access for cyclists and joggers etc. She suggests a ‘loop’ could be created along Arapaepae, Tararua and Gladstone Roads. She also suggests that this could be raised during discussions with the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) as they look at options to improve State Highway 1.



- The submitter wants to ensure that reasonable road access from town to the Ohau River Reserves is maintained and requests that Council make this a priority in negotiating with the NZTA as they explore options to improve State Highway 1.
- The submitter requests that the Plan be amended to include recognition of horse access and bridal ways, and the appropriate management of these activities. She notes that there are quite a few riders that already use some of the reserves for this purpose and that they do this in a conscientious and respectful way. She also outlines the benefits of providing for horse riders.
- The submitters queries whether signs should be erected in areas where rock fall is a hazard, especially in relation to swimming holes.
- The submitter asks whether the Plan can be amended to include that Horizons Regional Council is encouraged to maintain good swimming holes where public access has already been developed. This would avoid people creating their own access elsewhere and potentially damaging the environment there.
- The submitter requests that the Plan be amended to mention controlling river erosion, including who is responsible for this (e.g. Horizons Regional Council).

### Officer analysis

Officer's responses to the points raised by the submitter are as follows:

- The submitter's support for the development of a shared pathway between the Ohau River Reserves is noted. Her suggestion of creating a link from town to the reserves is also noted and this is project that can be discussed by the Horowhenua Shared Pathway Network Group as it goes beyond the reserves themselves. It can be noted that shared pathway development is something that Council is keen to discuss with the NZTA.
- The submitter's comments are noted With regard to road access from town to the reserves.
- The submitter's comments are noted. The river reserves are scenic reserves and are prone to river erosion. Horse trekking compacts soil and reduces vegetation in well-used areas and as such officers need to consider how this might aggravate erosion on the river reserves. It should also be acknowledged that horses can be intimidating for other users of shared pathways. Notwithstanding these issues the Reserve Management Plans recognises the need to improve and extend leisure and recreation provision on shared pathways. Consequently access by horses or provision for bridal ways will be considered in the overall management of the reserves and in developing shared pathways.
- The submitter's comments in relation to erecting signage in area where of rock fall hazard is something that officers can investigate outside of the reserve management plan.
- The submitter's comments in relation to the maintenance of swimming holes are noted.
- Officers recommend amending the Ohau River Reserves Management Plan to make is clear for readers that Horizons Regional Council is primarily responsible for riparian planting and for managing river erosion.

### Officer recommendations

That officers acknowledge and thank Pamela Robinson for her submission.

That the Draft Plan is amended to make is clear for readers that Horizons Regional Council is primarily responsible for riparian planting and for the management of river erosion.

As a result from the points raised by the submitter the following actions have been identified for officers to address outside of the Reserve Management Plan process:

- Officers investigate the need to erect signage at reserves where rock fall is a potential hazard.

## Summary of submitter comments – Charles Rudd (Submission 18)

### **Draft Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve Management Plan**

Mr Rudd raises the following matters in relation to this Reserve Management Plan:

- Why he was not directly consulted given that he was a previous submitter.
- He refers to a submission he made on 12 February 2016 on the Waitarere Beach Foreshore being Customary Maori Land and gives his opinion on the decision that was made in relation to this submission (for the Notice of Requirement in relation to the Waitarere Surf Lifesaving facility).
- That he is concerned about the cultural and environmental insensitivity, which could manifest into social upheavals.
- That he is concerned about a diagram in the Plan that places Maori precariously.
- That he is concerned that marram grass and spinifex are used as priority over the native pingao.
- That he is concerned that horses have priority over dogs and notes the damage that horses can cause.
- That he is concerned that any stormwater outlets and leachate of heavy metals, is a health and safety issue.
- That he is concerned that any sewage/oxidation pond leachate in the porous sand area is a health and safety issue in a food gathering and recreational area.

### Officer analysis

With regard to the matters raised by Mr Rudd, officers note:

- Mr Rudd was not directly approached for comment on the Draft Plan. The current Reserve Management Plan was developed 17 years ago and as such officers did not approach the submitters on this plan for their specific comments. Instead current reserve users groups, organisations that have a special interest in the reserve (e.g. DoC and Horizons Regional Council) and iwi/hapu were approached. As a member of the public he was still welcome to submit his comments on the draft Plan during the public consultation phase, which he has done.
- Reference to the decision made in February 2016 is in relation to the Notice of Requirement for the Surf Lifesaving Club building relocation. This is entirely separate to the Reserve Management Plan process. Although it should be noted that Mr Rudd's submission on the Notice of Requirement was heard and decided on by an independent commissioner.
- Officers are unsure what the submitter is referring to in this comment With regard to social upheavals.
- Officers having listened to Mr Rudd speak about a diagram that places Maori precariously at the hearing remain unclear on the nature of the changes to the RMP that Mr Rudd is seeking.
- Marram grass does not have priority over native plants for planting along the coast in the Foreshore Reserve. Spinifex is the major indigenous sand dune grass that occurs on foredunes throughout most of the North Island. Sometimes referred to as silvery sand grass, or kowhangatara, it is the dominant sand binding plant on the seaward face of the foredune where its long trailing runners and vigorous growth make it an ideal sand dune stabiliser. Officers have endeavoured to use Pingao at Foxton Beach but establishment has been markedly inferior when compared to Spinifex, it is outcompeted by Marram in most situations, and is prone to browsing by possum and rabbits unlike Spinifex.
- Horses do not have priority over dogs. Horses are limited to accessing the beach via Windsor and Waitarere Beach Roads, dogs have access to the beach via these roads and footpaths. Dogs must always be under the control of the owner. Dog owners and horse riders are responsible for the removal of their animal's droppings on the beach.



- The submitter's concern is noted. This is beyond the scope of the Reserve Management Plan process.
- The submitter's concern is noted. This is beyond the scope of the Reserve Management Plan process.

### **Draft Combined Waitarere Beach Reserves Management Plan**

Mr Rudd raises the following matters in relation to this Reserve Management Plan:

- That he is concerned about a diagram in the Plan that places Maori precariously.
- That he is concerned about the following effects relative to on-site, off-site and distant off-site areas.
- That he is concerned that any stormwater outlets and leachate of heavy metals, is a health and safety issue for the Waitarere Beach Foreshore area.
- That he is concerned that any sewage/oxidation pond leachate in the porous sand area is a health and safety issue in a food gathering and recreational area.

#### Officer analysis

With regard to the matters raised by Mr Rudd, officers note:

- Officers having listened to Mr Rudd speak about a diagram that places Maori precariously at the hearing remain unclear on the nature of the changes to the RMP that Mr Rudd is seeking.
- Officers having listened to Mr Rudd speak about the effects relative to on-site, off-site and distant off-site areas at the hearing remain unclear on the nature of the changes to the RMP that Mr Rudd is seeking.
- The submitter's concern is noted With regard to stormwater. This is beyond the scope of the Reserve Management Plan process.
- The submitter's concern is noted With regard to sewage/oxidation ponds leachate. This is beyond the scope of the Reserve Management Plan process.

### **Draft Ohau River Reserves Management Plan**

Mr Rudd raises the following matters in relation to this Reserve Management Plan:

- Why he was not directly consulted given that he was a previous submitter.
- That he is concerned about a diagram in the Plan that places Maori precariously.
- That he is also concerned about the effects that gravel extraction from the Ohau River has on the reserves, fish, birds, native plants, recreational pursuits and Maori connection to the nga Atua, whenua and awa.

#### Officer analysis

With regard to the matters raised by Mr Rudd, officers note:

- Mr Rudd was not directly approached for comment on the draft Plan. The current Reserve Management Plan was developed 17 years ago and as such officers did not approach the submitters on this plan for their specific comments. Instead current reserve users groups, organisations that have a special interest in the reserve (e.g. DoC and Horizons Regional Council) and Iwi/hapu were approached. As a member of the public he was still welcome to submit his comments on the draft Plan during the public consultation phase, which he has done.
- Officers having listened to Mr Rudd speak about a diagram that places Maori precariously at the hearing remain unclear on the nature of the changes to the RMP that Mr Rudd is seeking.
- The effects of gravel extraction on the Ohau River and surrounding environment are dealt with under the Resource Management Act via consent processes. This is separate to the Reserve Management Plan process.

Officer recommendations

That officers acknowledge and thank Charles Rudd for his submission.

**Summary of submitter comments – Peter Wright (Submission 19)**

The submitter raises concerns in relation to Consents 101346; 101716; and RCA 1344. He has further indicated concern in relation to the management of wind-blown sand on Waitarere Beach Road; the continued accretion of sand; and the remaining Marram grass dunes.

Officer analysis

The submitter's comments are noted. At this stage the dunes in front of the current Surf Lifesaving Club building and adjacent the main access way will be re-shaped when the new Surf Lifesaving Club building is developed. At this time the marram grass can be removed and replaced with native species.

Officer recommendations

That officers acknowledge and thank Peter Wright for his submission.

**Submissions on the Draft Combined Foxton Reserves Management Plan**

**Summary of submitter comments – Malcolm Cotter (Submission 1)**

The submitter owns property adjoining the south eastern corner of Easton Park, adjacent to the clubrooms. They advise there is noise from after game drinks and that there are rocks, glass bottles, rubbish and other items thrown onto their lawn during after game drinks. The submitter asks for either Council or the rugby club to fence off the corner of the clubrooms to the submitter's property.

The submitter advises cars doing 'doughnuts' in the carpark and that there are dirt bikes are using the park as a 'dragstrip'. Requests that entrance off Johnston Street needs to be gated with only rugby club members having access and left open for events. However, still allow for pedestrian and mobility scooter access.

Officer analysis

With regard to the submitter's concerns on the noise and litter from users of the clubrooms and the park after sports games, the clubrooms are owned and managed by the Foxton Rugby Club. Officers can raise the submitter's concerns with the Club and should issues continue the submitter is also encouraged to contact Council's regulatory section. Council's regulatory section has powers in relation to control of noise and litter.

Officers note the submitter's concerns on vehicles doing 'doughnuts' in the carpark and dirt bikes through the park. Officers have no records relating to this particular issue, however, opportunities to manage access to the site will be considered in relation to operational improvements.

Officer recommendations

That officers acknowledge and thank Malcom Cotter for his submission.

## **Summary of submitter comments – Terry Oliver-Ward (Submission 2)**

### **Foxton River Loop Reserve and Seaview Gardens**

The submitter advises there are no facilities and local facilities are not adequate.

#### **Officer analysis**

Officers acknowledge there are no facilities (ie. Toilets) located on the Foxton River Loop Reserve or Seaview Gardens. Once Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom is completed there will be a public toilet within this building, accessible from the Foxton River Loop Reserve. Currently there are public toilets in close proximity to the Foxton River Loop Reserve at the Dutch Oven.

Facilities on Seaview Gardens can be explored as part of the proposed action to investigate options to improve the Gardens as a destination.

Officers note the submitter's concerns that local facilities are not adequate. Officers are, however, unclear on what the submitter means by not adequate.

#### **Officer recommendations**

That officers acknowledge and thank Terry Oliver-Ward for her submission.

As a result from the points raised by the submitter the following actions have been identified for officers to address outside of the Reserve Management Plan process:

- Officers consider the provision of facilities on Seaview Gardens when investigating options to improve the reserve as a destination.

## **Summary of submitter comments – John Batt (Submission 3)**

### **Foxton River Loop Reserve**

The submitter requests for a walkway to be created from Awahou Bush Board Walk to Piriharakeke Walkway.

The submitter requests for HDC to construct a bridge across Kings Canal or pipe it and for HDC to fill in and level up area in front of the wetland beside King's Canal so it can be mown.

The submitter requests for the stormwater drain opposite 'Roache's concrete products' be piped.

The submitter requests for HDC to raise areas of river frontage that flood so it can be mown and kept tidy. The submitter also requests for Council contractors to spend time gardening and tidying up along the river frontage.

The submitter requests for HDC to seal the entrance to Piriharakeke Walkway where cars park as it is always muddy.

#### **Officer analysis**

With regard to creating a walkway from Awahou Bush Board Walk to Piriharakeke Walkway, the Draft Reserve Management Plan proposes an action to link up the Piriharakeke Walkway with Awahou Bush Board Walk.

King's Canal is an open drain that partly crosses through the southern end of a parcel managed as part of the Foxton River Loop Reserve (Section 1 SO 18592). Officers have had discussions with Horizons Regional Council regarding King's Canal and will continue to engage with them regarding the maintenance and any improvements that may be required.

With regard to the submitter's request for the river frontage to be raised and for contractors to spend time gardening and tidying up along the river frontage, Save Our River Trust (SORT) have a resource consent from Horizons Regional Council that will impact on the river frontage. The consent includes proposed works to the river frontage, dredging, and the creation of wetlands on the Foxton River Loop Reserve. Officers will work with SORT to determine what works are undertaken at the River Loop Reserve.

Officers note the submitter's request for the entrance to the Piriharakeke Walkway to be sealed. Maintenance on the entrance way is going to be undertaken as part of operational works.

#### Officer recommendations

That officers acknowledge and thank John Batt for his submission.

#### **Summary of submitter comments – Justine Street (Submission 4)**

The submitter requests for an outdoor circuit of exercise equipment at Easton Park.

#### Officer analysis

Officers note the submitter's suggestion for outdoor exercise equipment on Easton Park. Easton Park is a designated sportsfield that attracts a good level of use. There is insufficient room on Easton Park to establish a trim trail/outdoor gym. The consultation process has not suggested that an outdoor exercise area/gym is of high importance to the local community, however, this suggestion can be explored for reserves where it may be fitting such as Victoria Park.

#### Officer recommendations

That officers acknowledge and thank Justine Street for her submission.

As a result from the points raised by the submitter the following actions have been identified for officers to address outside of the Reserve Management Plan process:

- Officers consider outdoor exercise equipment as part of reviewing the use and development of Victoria Park.

#### **Summary of submitter comments – Petrus (Submission 5)**

##### **Victoria Park**

The submitter requests for Council to fix up the cycling track and for HDC to have the park as a freedom camping or motorcamp site. The submitter also requests a cycling club and clubrooms and to have the kitchen and bathroom open.

#### Officer analysis

Officers note the submitter's suggestions for Victoria Park. However, neither anecdotal evidence nor the current community consultation has indicated that the reinstatement of a cycle track is high priority for the community. The Draft Reserve Management Plan proposes

an action to review the use of Victoria Park. As such, these suggestions can be taken into consideration when undertaking this action.

#### Officer recommendations

That officers acknowledge and thank Petrus for his submission.

As a result from the points raised by the submitter the following actions have been identified for officers to address outside of the Reserve Management Plan process:

- Officers consider the Petrus's suggestions to fix up the cycling track, to have Victoria Park as an overnight camping site, a cycling club and clubrooms and to have the kitchen and bathroom open, when reviewing the use of Victoria Park.

#### **Summary of submitter comments – Amy Robinson on behalf of the Department of Conservation (Submission 6)**

##### **Foxton River Loop Reserve**

DoC indicates they are generally supportive of the Draft Plan. The submitter also indicates the objectives and policies for the Foxton River Loop Reserve does not clearly identify how ecological and historic values will be protected, given that a proposed policy encourages projects that promote the recreational and scenic value of the reserve and overall regeneration of Foxton.

#### Officer analysis

Officers note the submitter's concerns that the Draft Reserves Management Plan does not clearly identify how ecological and historic values will be protected. Officers will review the wording of these objectives and policies in response to this submission.

#### Officer recommendations

That officers acknowledge and thank Department of Conservation for their submission.

That officers review the wording of objectives and policies for the Foxton River Loop Reserve to ensure they clearly identify how ecological and historic values will be protected.

#### **Summary of submitter comments – Junette Haronga (Submission 7)**

The submitter requests for more signs, no dogs, dogs on leash only and for no alcohol or drugs to be consumed.

The submitter requests for HDC to keep toilets clean and provide contact details for service.

The submitter requests for more rubbish bins including doggy doo bins, for only small rubbish so no household rubbish is able to fit in and for prosecution notices on bins.

The submitter requests for more adequate drainage and employee locals for the maintenance of the drains, clean drinking water and adequate, sustainable sewerage disposal.

#### Officer analysis

Officers acknowledge the submitter's requests for improved signage. Officers are considering updating signage including on dogs on leashes.

With regard to the submitter's request for Council to keep toilets clean and provide contact details for service, the cleaning of facilities is undertaken as part of operational work. All toilet facilities should have contact details for service; however, officers will review the facilities to see if there are any that do not have these details.

With regard to the submitter's suggestions for bins, more bins will only be installed if required. Officers are standardising all rubbish bins to restrict the size of the bags that can fit in them. This is to reduce the amount of people using bins inappropriately (eg. dumping household rubbish). Doggy doo bins are no longer required as dog poo can be disposed of in any rubbish bin within the reserves in the District.

Officers note the submitter's concerns regarding adequate drainage and employing locals for the maintenance of the drains, clean drinking water and adequate, sustainable sewerage disposal. These concerns are relatively broad and are out of scope to influence changes to the RMP.

#### Officer recommendations

That officers acknowledge and thank Junette Haronga for her submission.

As a result from the points raised by the submitter the following actions have been identified for officers to address outside of the Reserve Management Plan process:

- Officers review toilet facilities within the Foxton reserves as to whether they all have contact details for service.

#### **Summary of submitter comments – Bob Hoskins (Submission 8)**

##### **Foxton River Loop Reserve**

###### *History*

The submitter requests that the history of the reserve including its Maori history be recognised and celebrated.

The submitter requests for the following to be recorded within the Plan: removal and demise of historical structures; history of work completed by Keep Foxton Beautiful and Save Our River Trust; and requests/agreements between volunteers and HDC.

The submitter also requests the remaining historical structures (eg. concrete boiler bases) be made safe.

###### *Roading*

The submitter requests for Harbour Street to be kept narrow and cars deterred from using it as a thoroughfare. They also requests speed bumps and raised pedestrian crossings for Harbour Street. Part of Harbour Street floods when the Moutoa Floodgate opens and the submitter requests this be brought above flood level.

###### *Management*

The submitter requests for the edge of the River Loop to be kept down with a grass trimmer.

The submitter requests for motion sensor cameras to be installed to identify those that raid gardens for plants, dump rubbish or do 'wheelies' on the grass.

The submitter advises that King's Canal is a major source of weeds, a danger to children and a place for rubbish dumping. Camera requested for here also.

The submitter requests for HDC to replace and upgrade the boardwalk of Awahou Bush Board Walk. Camera requested for here also.

#### *Development*

The submitters suggests for each hapu of the District to carve a niu pole and erect these on the edge of the Board Walk.

The submitter advises the river bank needs stabilising and suggests Council constructs a cantilevered wooden walkway along the length of the town frontage. Posts on the edge of the boardwalk could be carvings like niu or pou poles. The names of sponsors could be engraved onto planks.

The submitter requests for a stone carving competition to be held every year and the winning carving purchased by HDC to place along the boardwalk.

The submitter requests more seats (movable so machinery can get past).

The submitter requests more rubbish bins with a motif of flax.

The submitter requests for increased youth participation in planning and design of the reserve.

#### Officer analysis

##### *History*

Officers acknowledge the submitter's request to recognise the historical significance of the reserve under the Draft Reserve Management Plan. Officers can add additional text to what is already covered in the overview of reserve. However, the extent that the submitter is requesting is considered unnecessary for a Reserve Management Plan. Reserve Management Plans provide high level direction to officers on the management and development of reserves.

Officers note the submitter's request for the structural remains of flax mills and port buildings along the river to be protected. If officers have interpreted what structures the submitter is referring to correctly, these are partially located within the Foxton River Loop Reserve opposite to the Flax Mill Reserve. If these structures are pre-1900s they are considered an archaeological site by Heritage New Zealand, which provides a level of protection. Council also owns the property that some of the structures are located within and recognise these are historically significant. Council can also explore protecting these structures under the Horowhenua District Plan in a future review or plan change.

Officers note installing interpretational/storyboard signage on the cultural and historical significance may be appropriate in some reserves.

##### *Roading*

Officers consider these requests to sit outside the scope of the Reserve Management Plan and will therefore be referred to the Land Transport team.



### *Management*

Officers note the submitter's request for the edge of the river to be kept down with grass trimmer. Council mows the grassed extent of the reserve; however, the immediate edge of the river is left due to existing plantings and being Horizons Regional Council's area of jurisdiction.

Officers note the submitter's concerns in relation to anti-social behaviour at the River Loop Reserve and Te Awahou boardwalk, but do not consider installation of motion activated cameras cost-effective or practical. Such cameras are unlikely to provide images suitable for the purpose of prosecution. Officers are, however, aware of these concerns.

King's Canal is an open drain that partly crosses through the southern end of a parcel managed as part of the Foxton River Loop Reserve (Section 1 SO 18592). Officers have had discussions with Horizons Regional Council regarding King's Canal and will continue to engage with them regarding the maintenance and any improvements that may be required.

Officers note the submitter's request for HDC to replace and upgrade the boardwalk of Awahou Bush Board Walk. Officers will continue to work with community groups and stakeholders on the development of the reserve.

### *Development*

Officers note the submitter's suggestions for niu poles to be carved and erected on the Board Walk. Officers will continue to work with community groups and stakeholders on the development of the reserve.

Officers note the submitter's concerns that the river bank needs stabilising and suggests Council constructs a walkway. Save Our River Trust (SORT) have had a resource consent granted by Horizons Regional Council which includes proposed works to the river frontage on the Foxton River Loop Reserve. Officers will work with SORT to determine what works are undertaken along the frontage.

Officers consider the request for a stone carving competition to be outside the scope of the Reserve Management Plan and should be referred to Community Development.

Officers note the submitter's request for more seats and rubbish bins. The Draft Reserves Management Plan proposes to create a development plan/design for this reserve and these suggestions can be explored as part of it.

Officers note the submitter's request for youth participation in planning and design of the reserve. Officers agree it is important to gain insight from youth on how they would like to see reserves developed.

### **Seaview Gardens**

The submitter notes the reserve is a reasonable amphitheatre shape and would be good for a portable stage.

### Officer analysis

The Draft Reserve Management Plan proposes actions to investigate options to improve Seaview Gardens as a destination; however, it is not perceived a stage would be the best use of the site. Officers can consider installing a portable stage as part of investigating options.

### Other reserves

The submitter requests for a reserve for unleashed dogs on the east side of SH1.

#### Officer analysis

Officers acknowledge there is limited open space on the east of SH1 for the community to walk their dogs. Within central Foxton the only reserve on the east of SH1 is Stuart Donnelly Park. Dogs are currently prohibited from Stuart Donnelly Park under Horowhenua District Council's Dog Bylaw. However, this Bylaw is under review and it is proposed that Stuart Donnelly Park become a 'dogs on leash' reserve. Officers will continue to investigate opportunities that might arise to improve reserve provision in the area.

#### Officer recommendations

That officers acknowledge and thank Bob Hoskins for his submission.

That officers review the reserve overview for the Foxton River Loop Reserve to ensure it covers the historical significance of the reserve at a high level.

That officers amend the Draft Plan to allow officers to explore signage/storyboards in the Foxton Reserves.

As a result from the points raised by the submitter the following actions have been identified for officers to address outside of the Reserve Management Plan process:

- Officers continue to work with stakeholders in the long term development of the Foxton River Loop Reserve.
- Officers continue to evaluate opportunities to increase reserve provision in respect of east of SH1.
- Officers explore protecting the remaining structures of the flax mills and port buildings along the edge of the Foxton River Loop under the Horowhenua District Plan.
- Officers refer the submitter's requests regarding Harbour Street to the Land Transport team.
- Officers refer the request for a stone carving competition to the Community Development team.
- Officers explore providing more seats and bins when creating the development plan/design for the Foxton River Loop Reserve.
- Officers consider installing a portable stage in Seaview Gardens as part of the action to investigate options.

#### **Summary of submitter comments – Margaret Morgan-Allen & Rex M Field on behalf of Ngati Hikitunga Te Paea (Submission 9)**

The submitter has indicated they support the Plan as it is currently drafted.

#### Officer recommendations

That officers acknowledge and thank Ngati Hikitunga Te Paea for their submission.

#### **Summary of submitter comments – Robin Hapi on behalf of Foxton Rugby Club (Submission 10)**

The submitter requests for a means of recording and acknowledging the significance of Pataka Park be found. This could be done in part through storyboards.

The submitter requests for Council and the Foxton Rugby Club to continue to work collaboratively in regard to rugby and other related activities centred on Easton Park.

The submitter requests for parking spaces to be painted on the carpark off Johnston Street.

The submitter requests for the free running of dogs be discontinued on the whole of Easton Park.

#### Officer analysis

Officers acknowledge the submitter's request to find a means of recording and acknowledging the significance of Pataka Park. Officers are currently in contact with representatives of the Easton-Pataka Park Trust, the Trust that owns Lot 5 Block VIII Awahou Block (Pataka Park). Storyboards on Pataka Park can be explored as part of investigating signage across all Foxton Reserves.

The Draft Reserve Management Plan provides for the continued communication between officers and clubs that use the Park.

Officers note the submitter's request for painted parking spaces in the carpark off Johnston Street and will consider this as an action under the operational management of the park.

With regard to the submitter's request for the free running of dogs to be discontinued, dogs are currently prohibited from all playing fields in the dog bylaw. Owners should not be allowing dogs to roam unleashed on the park. The current draft changes to the bylaw for dogs allows them on leash but only when transitioning between State Highway 1 and Main Street. Officers are not of the opinion a complete ban is either (a) enforceable, or (b) practical, hence the restrictions contained in the draft changes.

#### Officer recommendations

That officers acknowledge and thank Foxton Rugby Club for their submission.

As a result from the points raised by the submitter the following actions have been identified for officers to address outside of the Reserve Management Plan process:

- Officers consider painting parking spaces within the carpark off Johnston Street.

#### **Summary of submitter comments – Victoria Edmonds on behalf of New Zealand Motor Caravan Association Inc. (Submission 11)**

##### **Opening Comments**

The submitter (New Zealand Motor Caravan Association (NZMCA)) indicates upfront in their submission that they encourage and support permissive policies that allow responsible freedom camping in certified self-contained (CSC) motorhomes and caravans (motor caravan). So that users can enjoy exploring the Horowhenua District without unreasonable or unnecessary restrictions.

NZMCA's submission covers Easton Park, Foxton River Loop Reserve, Seaview Gardens and Victoria Park. Flax Mill Reserve, Ihakara Gardens and Stuart Donnelly Park are excluded from the submission as they have no vehicle access.

The submission starts by outlining some 'key comments and recommendations' which include:

- A recommendation that the Freedom Camping Act 2011 is inserted into the diagrams of each of the Management Plans in the section "Overview of Statutory Context".

- The NZMCA disagrees with the restrictive approach that the Parks and Reserves General Policy Document (the overarching document for all reserves) has towards camping on reserves in the Horowhenua.
- The NZMCA submits that Council should recognise the importance of freedom camping in its Reserve Management Plans and commends Council that motor caravans can legally park as of right on any Road Reserve within the District.
- NZMCA indicates that not identifying areas within the reserves that are suitable for responsible freedom camping is inconsistent with Objective 4.9.3 in the Parks and Reserves General Policy Document 2016, which is; 'That provision is made in specific reserves with appropriate facilities for campervans and rental vans to stay overnight'. The submitter also indicates this is inconsistent with the actions for the 'Camping and Motor Homes' section of the General Policy Document.
- The NZMCA indicates in their submission that the Draft Reserves Management Plan does not allow for responsible overnight parking to occur on any reserves.
- The submitter notes that a number of the reserves are identified as a recreation reserve and that freedom camping is not inconsistent with the purpose of these reserves. Freedom camping is recognised as an important recreational activity under the Freedom Camping Act.
- The NZMCA requests that Council specifically mention that freedom camping is permitted in all reserves, unless prohibited in specific reserves.
- The NZMCA notes that Foxton applied to be a Motor Home Friendly Town and that the Draft Reserves Management Plan should reflect Council's commitment to this programme.

#### Officer analysis

Officers responses to the 'key comments and recommendations' are as follows:

- The diagram that highlights some of the key statutes, plans, strategies and regulations and their relationship with Reserve Management Plans is not meant to be exhaustive. There are many other statutes etc that have a relationship with Reserve Management Plans which are not identified (e.g. the Dog Control Act). Officers do not think it is necessary to amend this diagram for these Reserve Management Plans. The diagram is common across all the Plans and should be consistent.
- Council's Parks and Reserves General Policy Document has recently been reviewed and was adopted in April 2016, follow public consultation. The current approach to not allow camping on reserves was intentional as not all reserves are considered appropriate for camping. Furthermore the objectives and policies of the General Policy Document have been adopted and are relevant for this matter. The facilitation of freedom camping will continue to be evaluated on a reserve by reserve basis.
- Camping is provided for on several reserves throughout the District. However, while providing for this activity on appropriate reserves is important, many of our reserves serve other purposes (e.g. sports grounds or neighbourhood reserves) which is the focus of their respective Reserve Management Plans.
- The submitter's comments are noted. Officers can consider exploring options for overnight camping as part of the proposed actions to create a development plan for Victoria Park.
- The submitter's comments are noted. However, while reserves may be recognised as recreation reserve this doesn't necessarily mean they are appropriate for camping (e.g. Easton Park is a sports park).
- Officers support the current approach which is to provide for camping on nominated reserves where it is considered that this use is appropriate rather than allowing it to occur on every reserve.

## The Reserves

NZMCA notes there is no mention of freedom camping being permitted in any of the reserves that have vehicular access under the Draft Reserves Management Plan. The submitter advises not permitting freedom camping is inconsistent with each reserve's objectives and policies. The submitter also noted that parts of Easton Park and the Foxton River Loop Reserve are vested as Local Purpose – Road Reserve and therefore allow for camping.

NZMCA make specific recommendations that Council:

- Considers permitting freedom camping in CSC vehicles on all vehicle accessible reserves with appropriate restrictions
- Include the Freedom Camping Act 2011 in the diagram of national legislation that needs to be considered when preparing a reserve management plan
- Add a policy to ensure the management plan duly recognises the importance and value of freedom camping to the public and communities. Freedom camping in a certified self-contained vehicle is allowed in all parts of the reserve unless prohibited in specific areas and provided all conditions for freedom camping are complied with.
- Add a policy that alludes to the fact that freedom camping in motor homes is permitted in the areas vested as Road Reserves within the Management Plan. Freedom camping in CSC motor caravans is permitted in areas of the reserve that are identified as Road Reserves.
- Add an action that ensures options for providing for freedom camping and vehicle access to reserves are explored.
- If there are prohibited/restricted areas, to identify them in the aerial maps of the reserves.

### Officer analysis

Officers do not consider it appropriate to provide for freedom camping on Easton Park as the Draft Reserves Management Plan states the park is to be retained as a sports hub.

Officers note the submitter's request to ensure options for freedom camping and vehicle access are explored. Officers can consider exploring options for freedom camping at nominated reserves.

Officers note the submitter's comments for the aerial maps, however, are not at a stage where these can be identified.

## General Comments on the Plan

### *Statutory Considerations*

The submitter outlines 'statutory considerations' With regard to the Freedom Camping Act, the Reserves Act, the Resource Management Act and the Local Government Act.

### *Freedom Camping – A Permitted Activity*

The submitter outlines Parliament's intent on introducing the Freedom Camping Act and indicates that freedom camping is an important 'kiwi tradition'. The NZMCA would like Council to take a permissive approach to freedom camping on its reserves.

*Benefits of a Permissive Regime*

The NZMCA outlines the economic, social and environmental benefits of providing for freedom camping.

Officer analysis

*Statutory Considerations*

The submitter's comments are noted in relation to the 'statutory considerations'. The Reserves Management Plan has been developed in line with the Reserves Act and camping is provided for on reserves where it is considered an appropriate use. The Reserves Management Plan needs to provide for a wide range of uses for the benefit of the community. Reserves serve a variety of purposes, not just as a place for people to camp.

If Council develops a Freedom Camping Bylaw in the future then officers would ensure that policies were consistent across other Council plans and strategies.

*Freedom Camping – A Permitted Activity*

Officers remain supportive of the current approach to freedom camping, which is to provide for it on appropriate reserves. By providing for it on appropriate reserves would-be campers have local freedom camping options if this is their preference.

*Benefits of a Permissive Regime*

The submitter's comments are noted.

Officer recommendations

That officers acknowledge and thank NZ Motor Caravan Association for their submission.

**Summary of submitter comments – David Batchelor on behalf of Coley Street School (Submission 12)**

The submitter indicates they support the objectives and policies for reserve use except for the policy that looks at improving recreational and leisure opportunities for local residents and consider partnering with the adjacent school to deliver enhanced leisure and recreation experience. The submitter requests the wording of this policy be altered to specify the adjacent school is Coley Street School, include enhanced transportation experience and specify for students and the public.

The submitter indicates they support the objectives and policies for management and development except for the policy that directs officers to explore providing more playground equipment that does not duplicate what is already provided on Coley Street School. The submitter requests that this policy is undertaken in consultation with the school.

Officer analysis

Officers acknowledge the submitter's requested changes to the policies. With regard to the changes to the policy under reserve use, officers are comfortable with making it clear what school they are referring to when it says adjacent school, however, consider transportation to be too broad of a term to use as it may imply vehicle transport. Officers do not consider it necessary to specify the policy provides for both students and the public.



With regard to the changes to the policy under management and development, the Draft Reserve Management Plan proposes an action to work with the community to determine a development plan for the reserve. Officers note Coley Street School as being a key stakeholder in the development of this plan.

#### Officer recommendations

That officers acknowledge and thank Ministry of Education (Coley Street School) for their submission.

That officers alter Policy 8.7.1.2 to specify Coley Street School as the adjacent school.

#### **Summary of submitter comments – Robin Hapi on behalf of Save Our River Trust (Submission 13 LATE)**

The submitter wishes to raise the level of their relationship with HDC and work in partnership to achieve their aims for the reserve for the benefit of the community.

The submitter requests assistance from HDC to organise a public workshop to hear and consider new ideas.

#### Officer analysis

Officers recognise the valuable work Save Our River Trust (SORT) undertake on the river loop and agree with its overall vision to improve ecological habitats, and facilitate additional opportunities for recreation and leisure. There is some merit in discussing with the group and other stakeholders what additional assistance can be provided to the group in achieving positive outcomes for the river loop and the Foxton community as part of the existing regeneration portfolio.

#### Officer recommendations

That officers acknowledge and thank Save Our River Trust for their submission.

#### **Additional feedback for consideration**

The following section lists the feedback received during or outside of the formal consultation period on the Draft Waitarere Beach Reserves, Draft Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve and Draft Ohau River Reserves Management Plans. This feedback did not constitute of a formal submission, however, it is proposed for inclusion.

#### **Feedback from Ngati Huia**

Ngati Huia provided feedback during the consultation period on the Draft Waitarere Beach Reserves and Draft Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve Management Plans. Although they did not make a formal submission on the Draft Plans Ngati Huia's feedback is proposed for inclusion in the process.

In a meeting on 3 March 2017 Ngati Huia raised the following matters with council officers:

#### *Accretion Claim along the Waitarere Beach Foreshore*

With regard to Council claiming accreted land to the west of Waitarere Beach Township Ngati Huia asked officers to explore the possibility of making this a joint claim and that the management of the accreted land going forward could be a partnership. Ngati Huia raised



concerns about instances in Kapiti where private landowners had claimed beach fronts to which they are adjacent.

Officers are looking into the suggestion and will need to discuss this further with Ngati Huia in the future once officers have a better understanding of the process.

#### *Historical Information Boards*

Ngati Huia suggested that information boards could be erected in some of the reserves which contain historical information about the local people. Officers understand that any information included on the boards would need to be verified before the boards are erected.

#### *Hydrabad Shipwreck*

Ngati Huia suggested making the Hydrabad Shipwreck more visible with better sign posting and potentially uncovering part of the shipwreck. Although if part of the shipwreck was to be uncovered this would need to be done in a way that did not undermine the sand dunes.

This matter has also been raised by the local progressive and ratepayers association at various times. However, any project to uncover the ruin would need to have a cost/benefit analysis applied to it. The dunes at Waitarere are accreting at approx. 1.8m per year so such a project would require on-going investment. Another option might be to develop the proposal virtually with the use of site specific signage and technology i.e. smart barcodes.

#### *Vehicles on the Beach*

Ngati Huia expressed some interest in reducing the number of vehicles on the beach (e.g. this could be encouraged by ensuring parking was available off the beach). This is an issue that has a lot of interest in it and no doubt will need to be further explored in the future. To date the focus has been on educating people to stay off the dunes.

#### *Wairarawa Stream*

The movement of this stream was discussed and whether Council should continue to cut the stream or consider letting it move. Ngati Huia's preference was to keep straightening the stream for now although it was stressed the development of a wetland system could slow the flow of the stream.

This isn't something that is just occurring at Waitarere Beach and Council needs to understand this issue more broadly so that it can be managed appropriately. As an interim measure Council can continue to cut the stream when necessary (subject to consent).

#### *Camping on or near the beach*

Ngati Huia expressed an interest in allowing people to camp on or near the beach as something for Council to consider in the future, given that it is not currently allowed. This does have the potential to create some issues in terms of waste management or given that the beach is currently a road.

In terms of camping on the Foreshore Reserve, this reserve is highly sensitive in nature and officers would not want to encourage people to drive or park on areas other than the identified access ways. At this stage officers do not consider it necessary to provide for camping on any part of this reserve.

### Officer recommendations

That officers review the text on accretion in the Draft Waitarere Beach Foreshore Plan to acknowledge officers are looking into Ngati Huia's suggestion.

That officers add actions to the Waitarere Foreshore Reserve and Waitarere Beach Reserves Management Plans to explore storyboards.

### **Feedback from Tukorehe**

Tukorehe also provided feedback on the Draft Ohau River Reserves Management Plan at a meeting with council officers on 28 March 2017. Although they did not make a formal submission on the Draft Plan and the feedback was provided after the consultation period for the Draft Ohau River Reserve Management Plan had closed, Tukorehe's feedback is proposed for inclusion in the process.

Matters that Tukorehe raised included:

- The importance of riparian planting and planting on the reserves in general. Any planting should help to foster native bird life.
- For Council to facilitate discussions with Horizons, themselves and other iwi/hapu to help provide for better water quality, biodiversity and improved aquatic life.
- For the objectives and/or policies to recognise the importance of biodiversity and cultural values.

Tukorehe also mentioned a piece of land on the opposite side of the Ohau River from Parikawau Reserve. This piece of land was subject to fly tipping and covered in weeds and Tukorehe thought it could be a nice place for families to stop and picnic if it was developed as a reserve. The site is not council owned land and after a site visit it is considered the land will not be included in the Ohau River Reserves Management Plan at this time due to its current state.

### Officer recommendations

That officers review the Draft Plan to reflect the role of iwi/hapu in looking after the environment.

That officers add a policy under Section 4.1.4.3 to further ensure that the use and development of the Ohau River Reserves does not adversely affect the Ohau River.

## **6. Requested Amendments**

### **Requested Amendments to all Draft Reserve Management Plans**

1. Amend the Executive Summary and throughout the Draft Plan to remove 'Draft' and reflect the Plan is recommended to be finalised.
2. Amend the Draft Plans for minor formatting and spelling corrections throughout.
3. Amend the overview of the Plans to make it clear what reserves (or parts of reserves) are subject to the Reserves Act 1977 and which aren't:

*This Plan contains reserves that are made up of parcels of land that are not classified as a reserve under the Reserves Act 1977. Only the parcels that are classified as a reserve are subject to the Act. For reserves where no parcels are classified as reserve, the*

Reserve Management Plan for that reserve is not a Reserve Management Plan under the Act instead a plan that outlines how Council will manage and develop the land. For reserves where only some of the parcels that make up the reserve are classified as reserve and some aren't, the Reserve Management Plan is considered to be a Reserve Management Plan under the Act only for those parcels which are classified as reserve.

### **Requested Amendments to the Draft Combined Waitarere Beach Reserves Management Plan**

4. Add to Section 2 to recognise tourism:

This beach side community is a popular spot for visitors from within and outside of the district.

5. Amend Section 3.3 to note that the Waitarere Domain is treated as recreation reserve in accordance with Section 16(7) of the Reserves Act.

Lot 33 DP 10657 was vested in Council and gazetted as domain in 1941 (page 1547 NZGZ) and again in 1955 (page 1303). This is treated as recreation reserve in accordance with Section 16(7) of the Reserves Act.

6. Amend action in Section 3.8 to reflect a development plan for Waitarere Domain has already been drafted:

*Action*

Prepare a Development Concept Plan for Waitarere Domain, with local input. Finalise the Development Plan for Waitarere Domain.

*Priority*

High-Medium

7. Add a policy(ies) to relevant reserves to explore signage or alternative options:

Explore opportunities for signage or alternative options to communicate information about the reserve.

### **Requested Amendments to the Draft Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve Management Plan**

8. Add to Section 2.1 to recognise tourism:

This beach side community is a popular spot for visitors from within and outside of the district.

9. Add a policy to explore signage or alternative options:

Explore opportunities for signage or alternative options to communicate information about the reserve.

10. Delete the text on the accretion claim under Sections 2.3.1, 3.1, 3.2.6, 3.2.7 and 3.4:

Council has commenced an accretion claim. If the claim is successful then it will result in the boundaries of the Foreshore Reserve defined in the existing certificates of title extending seaward to reflect the area of land that Council currently manages and maintains.

~~Council is currently going through a process to claim this accreted land as part of the Foreshore Reserve, and as such formalise the management of this land.~~

~~As already noted, an accretion claim has been lodged and if it is successful then it will mean that Council will own all of the land that it is currently managing.~~

~~This designation will not take effect until Council's an accretion claim is settled.~~

~~Note: This new designation will only have effect if Council's an accretion claim is successful~~

11. Add text under Section 3.1 to clearly outline who is responsible for what on the reserves.

While Horowhenua District Council is responsible for the overall management of the reserve, as a regional council, Horizons Regional Council's primary function within the reserve is weed control on the dunes.

### **Requested Amendments to the Draft Ohau River Reserves Management Plan**

12. Amend action in Section 2.1.5 to highlight wayfinding and entrance signage:

*Improve wayfinding/entrance signage and access to this network of reserves and develop a cohesive identity and 'brand' for them.*

13. Add an action under Section 2.1.5 on storyboards:

*Action*

*Investigate the use of storyboards in Ohau River Reserves of historical and/or cultural significance.*

*Priority*

*Medium*

14. Amend Section 3.1 to describe Sections 82 and 85 Waiopahu Block VI as 'public conservation land administered by the Department of Conservation'.

*Section 82 Waiopahu Block VI and Section 85 Waiopahu Block VI are two parcels of land that are adjacent to Lot 1 DP 10400 and ~~are owned by the Department of Conservation~~ are public conservation land administered by the Department of Conservation.*

15. Delete and amend the following from Section 4.1 as creates confusion around where gravel extraction occurs:

~~*Gravel extraction from the River currently takes place on the western side of Kimberley Reserve.*~~ Council has also recently received a consent application for further gravel extraction storage to be undertaken.

16. Add a policy under Objective 2.1.4.2 to reflect that no activities that occur on the Ohau River Reserves will adversely affect the Ohau River:

*2.1.4.2(b) Policy*

*Ensure the use of the Reserves does not adversely affect the Ohau River.*

17. Amend Section 2.1.1.1 to reflect the role of iwi/hapu in looking after the environment:

*Council is open to working with other groups and organisations (e.g. the Department of Conservation, Horizons Regional Council and iwi/hapu) to enhance the ecological and biological diversity values of the reserves.*

18. Amend to make clear management of the river and riparian planting is primarily a function of Horizons Regional Council:

*It should be noted the management of the river and riparian planting is primarily a function of Horizons Regional Council.*

19. Delete the action under Section 3.8 as it has been identified that the classification of reserves needs to be explored at a high level:

~~*Reclassify Lot 1 DP 10440 as a recreation reserve (this may require it to be subdivided from the other parcels contained in title 30324.*~~

### **Requested Amendments to the Draft Combined Foxton Reserves Management Plan**

20. Add a policy(ies) to relevant reserves to explore signage or alternative options:

*Explore opportunities for signage or alternative options to communicate information about the reserve.*

21. Delete the action under Section 4.8. The work on the Flax Mill Reserve as a result of Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom is expected to align with the proposed provisions of the Draft Reserve Management Plan:

~~*Review the Flax Mill Reserve Management Plan once work on Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom is completed.*~~

22. Amend Objective 5.7.2 under the Foxton River Loop Reserve as follows:

*Manage and develop the Foxton River Loop Reserve in a way that recognises and maintains its informal recreation, ecological, historic and scenic values.*

23. Add a new policy (Policy 5.7.2.8) in Section 5.7 that maintains the values of the Foxton River Loop reserve:

*Ensure that the future management and development of the Foxton River Loop Reserve recognises and maintains the reserve's informal recreation, ecological, historic and scenic values.*

24. Amend Policy 8.7.1.2 to identify the adjacent school refers to Coley Street School:

*Look at opportunities to improve the recreational and leisure opportunities for local residents and consider partnering with Coley Street School ~~the adjacent school~~ to deliver an enhanced leisure and recreation experience.*

25. Delete the action under Section 9.8 as this action is already covered by other proposed actions:

~~Undertake a comprehensive review of Victoria Park in the light of declining sport statistics and other development opportunities for Foxton.~~

26. Delete the actions under Sections 3.8, 4.8 and 6.8 as it has been identified that the classification of reserves needs to be explored at a high level:

~~Gazette the parcels of land that make up Easton Park as Recreation Reserve.~~

~~Gazette the parcels of land that make up Flax Mill Reserve.~~

~~Gazette the parcel of land that makes up Ihakara Gardens.~~

## 7. Options

The Hearings Committee is required to consider the submissions received. It then has the following options available to it:

### Option 1

Adopt the Draft Combined Waitarere Beach Reserves, Draft Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve, Draft Ohau River Reserves and Draft Combined Foxton Reserves Management Plans as amended.

### Option 2

Adopt the Draft Combined Waitarere Beach Reserves, Draft Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve, Draft Ohau River Reserves and Draft Combined Foxton Reserves Management Plans with additional amendments.

### Option 3

Do not adopt the Draft Combined Waitarere Beach Reserves, Draft Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve, Draft Ohau River Reserves and Draft Combined Foxton Reserves Management Plans and require that part of the review process be undertaken again.

Officers preferred options are Option 1 or Option 2 (depending on whether the members of the Hearing Committee have further amendments to make to the Reserve Management Plans).

## 8. Next Steps

- 8.1 Once the Draft Reserve Management Plans for the Waitarere Beach Reserves, Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve, Ohau River Reserves and Foxton Reserves are recommended by the Hearings Committee for adoption, these Plans are finalised and go to Council for adoption.
- 8.2 The final versions of the Reserve Management Plans will be made available online and hard copies will also be made available on request. Submitters will be notified of the outcome of this process. Officers will continue to work their way through the review of the remaining Reserve Management Plans.
- 8.3 There were a number of actions identified for officers to undertake outside of the Reserve Management Plan process, as a result of the submissions received. Officers will work on these outside of the RMP process.


**Confirmation of statutory compliance**


In accordance with section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002, this report is approved as:

- a. containing sufficient information about the options and their benefits and costs, bearing in mind the significance of the decisions; and,
- b. is based on adequate knowledge about, and adequate consideration of, the views and preferences of affected and interested parties bearing in mind the significance of the decision.

**9. Appendices**

No.	Title	Page
A	Draft Combined Waitarere Beach Reserves Management Plan - post submissions version <i>(Under Separate Cover)</i>	
B	Draft Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve Management Plan - post submissions version <i>(Under Separate Cover)</i>	
C	Draft Ohau River Reserves Management Plan - post submissions version <i>(Under Separate Cover)</i>	
D	Draft Combined Foxton Reserves Management Plan - post submissions version <i>(Under Separate Cover)</i>	

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Approved by	David McCorkindale <b>Senior Manager - Strategic Planning</b>	
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