

POU TEHIA HISTORIC RESERVE

DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Dept. of Lands and Survey
New Plymouth.



PREFACE

The Department of Lands and Survey has responsibility in terms of the Reserves Act 1977 of providing, for the preservation and management, for the benefit and enjoyment of the public, areas of New Zealand possessing recreational use or potential, wildlife, indigenous flora and fauna, environmental and landscape amenity or interest, and natural, scenic, historic, cultural, archaeological, biological, geological, scientific, educational, community, and other special features and values. Historic reserves are an important part of the reserves system and embrace many types of objects, places and natural features. They exist to protect and preserve in perpetuity features of historic, archaeological, cultural, educational and other special interest which illustrate with integrity the history of New Zealand.

The classification of reserves as historic is governed by Section 18 of the Reserves Act 1977.

Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977 requires that the administering body shall within five years of the commencement of the Act (i.e. 1 April 1978) prepare and submit to the Minister of Lands for his approval a management plan for the reserve under its control, management, or administration. The management plan is to provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection and preservation, as the case may require, and, to the extent that the administering body's resources permit, the development, as appropriate, of the reserve for the purposes for which it is classified.

This Management Plan is concerned with setting objectives and policies for the management of the Pou Tehia Historic Reserve. It contains a description and assessment of the Pou Tehia Historic Reserve and an expression of the management objectives, policies and implementation practices considered suitable for its ongoing management. It is against these objectives and policies that specific proposals can be assessed. The policies have been designed to provide cohesion and a positive direction for management, but flexible enough to adapt to changing conditions. The Plan will be kept under continuous review and will be comprehensively reviewed if and when this should become necessary.

The opportunity for the public to involve itself in the management planning process is provided for in the Act. One submission on the draft management plan was received from Mr Nigel Prickett (Archaeologist with the Auckland Institute and Museum).

This Management Plan has been prepared by the New Plymouth Office of the Department of Lands and Survey.

All correspondence should be addressed to:

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POU TEHIA
HISTORIC RESERVE
MANAGEMENT PLAN

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Appendix I : Extract from Section 18, Reserves Act 1977

Reference: 13/163

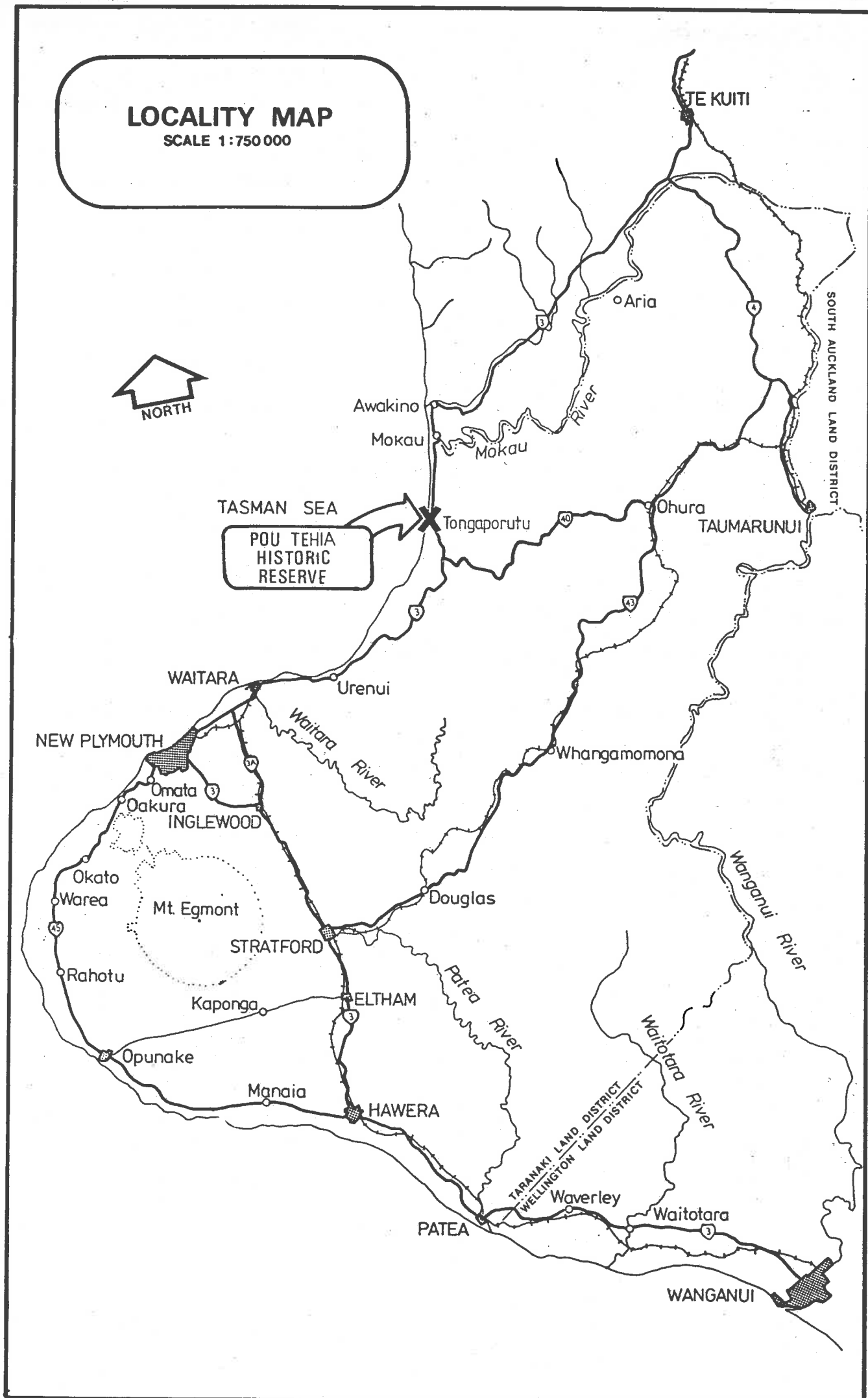
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P.O. Box 43
NEW PLYMOUTH

LOCALITY MAP

SCALE 1:750 000



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and Access

Situated in Clifton County, 66 km north of New Plymouth by road, adjacent to State Highway 3 on the north bank of the Tongaporutu River. The reserve is opposite the Tongaporutu holiday settlement.

1.2 Area, Legal Description and Administration

8271 m², being Section 42, Block I, Mimi Survey District. Classified as an historic reserve by N.Z. Gazette 1982, page 2713.

The reserve is administered by the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Department of Lands and Survey, New Plymouth.

Pou Tehia is designated as scenic and historic reserve, with a Rural underlying zoning, in the Clifton County operative district scheme.

1.3 Regional Setting

Pou Tehia is on a sharp sandstone knoll on the northern bank of the Tongaporutu River. The terrain around the site rises steeply to bush covered ridges. State Highway 3 has cut through the ridge between the knoll and the higher land to the north-east.

The historical landscape in which Pou Tehia is situated is rich, particularly in Maori historical features ranging from pa to middens (rubbish heaps). All sites over 100 years old are protected by the Historic Places Act 1980.

The closest historic reserve is Kawau Pa which is approximately 5.5 km to the north on the coast.

1.4 History

Pou Tehia is the site of a small Maori pa, with ditches, banks, terraces and food storage pits still visible.

The known history of the site is concerned with some burials at the western end of the summit platform. Accounts vary as to how many people are buried here; most consider the number to be nine or ten. The names of only five are recorded. The most well-known is Thomas McClutchie, a part-Maori who was employed by the Government at Pukearuhe Redoubt last century, and who married a high ranking woman of the Ngati Mutunga and Ngati Tama tribes. The other four are ancestors and relatives of Thomas McClutchie, recorded as William, Teoti, Pitt, and Pou Tehia (named after the pa). The site is a small family urupa, in contrast to the larger district urupa on Patangata island at the mouth of the Tongaporutu River.

With the coming of the Europeans the site was given the status of legal road. When a realignment of the State Highway took place in 1947, some damage occurred to the defensive earthworks protecting the pa from attack from the higher land to the north-east, but this was only after a hand-dug excavation revealed no artefacts other than three cooking pits. Part of the pa site is now on the inland side of the road.

The Taranaki Regional Committee of the National Historic Places Trust recommended in 1958 that the pa site be reserved. This involved a change of status of the land which was acted upon only slowly and it was not until 1965 that the site was reserved as a scenic and historic reserve.

Implications for management are:

- the earthworks of the pa are more than 100 years old and are therefore protected under the provisions of the Historic Places Act 1980.
- as a burial site, the reserve continues to have an ongoing cultural significance to the Maori people, and demands respect.

1.5 Past Management

Since burial, some of the bones became exposed, due to damage to the urupa. They were reinterred in a common grave, and a concrete slab was laid over the top. A memorial cross was erected alongside, and some hydrangeas were planted around the grave site.

Other than this there have been no major management activities. Consideration was given at one time to the provision of a car park alongside State Highway 3, but this, it was felt, would create a traffic hazard on a blind corner, and the proposal was not pursued.

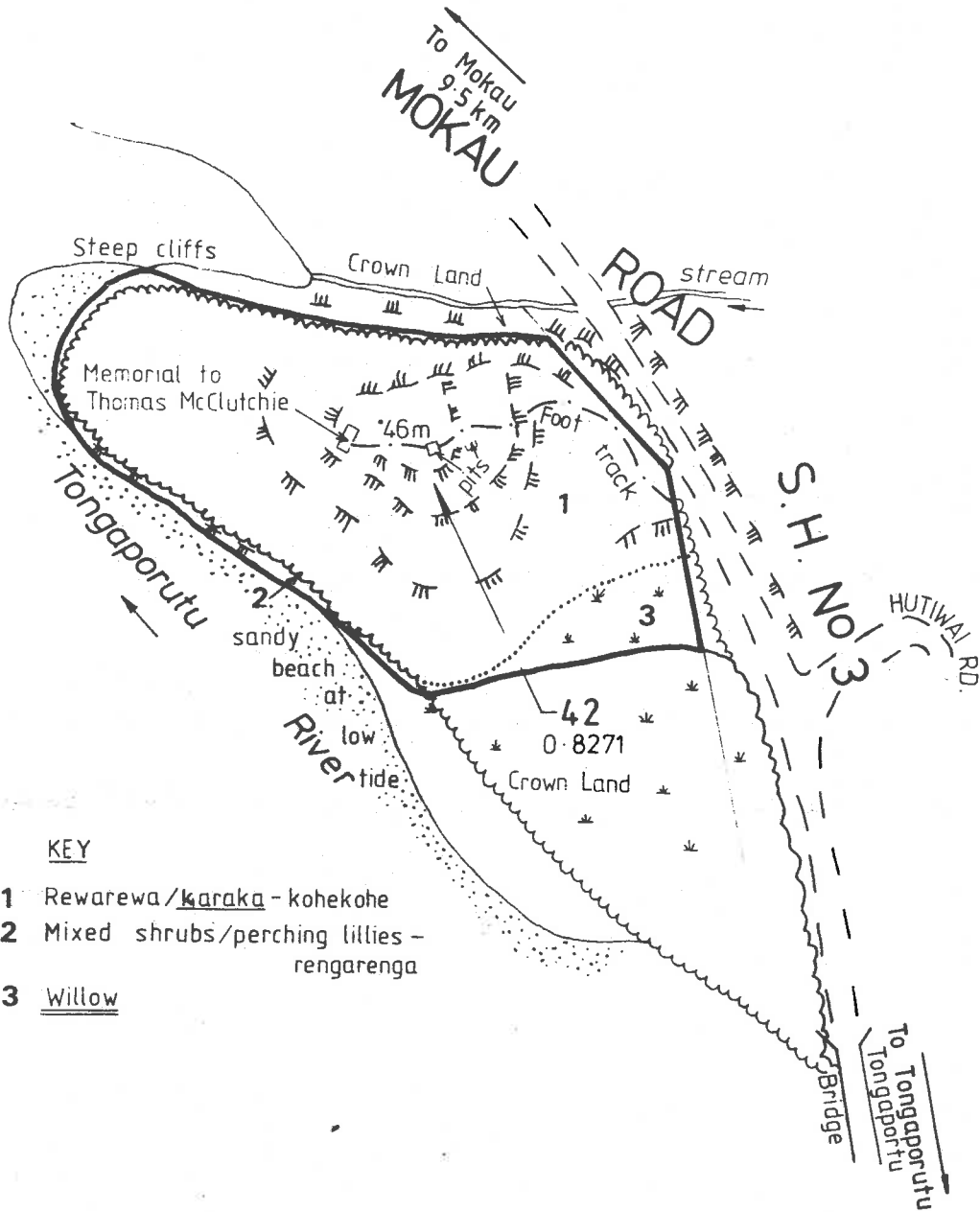
From the time the site was reserved until 1981 the Taranaki Reserves Board was responsible for control and management. Since then the responsibility has been held by the Commissioner of Crown Lands.

1.6 Site Description

The reserve is on a knoll some 30 metres high at the end of a steep ridge on the edge of the Tongaporutu estuary. The sandstone ridge has been cut through to a depth of some 20 metres by the State Highway, so that road travellers from south to north cross the Tongaporutu Bridge and almost immediately go into the leftward-curving cutting. The reserve is on the left and there is a fleeting glimpse of the white memorial cross on the top of the knoll before the traveller goes into the cutting.

The knoll is covered in regenerating native vegetation dominated by coastal species such as karaka, kohekohe, wharangi, titoki, and puriri, this canopy overtopped by a few emergent rewarewa. The hydrangeas are still present. Regeneration of the vegetation has been so successful that the earthworks of the pa are not visible from the road, and the memorial on the graves cannot be seen by travellers approaching from the north.

TARANAKI LAND DISTRICT CLIFTON COUNTY



KEY

- 1 Rewarewa/~~karakā~~ - kohekohe
- 2 Mixed shrubs/perching lillies - rengarenga
- 3 Willow

POU TEHIA HISTORIC RESERVE

45A

Total Area 0.8271 ha

Section 42
Block I Mimi S.D.



BLOCK I		MIMI SURVEY DISTRICT		SCALE 1: 1600	
LOCAL AUTHORITY CLIFTON COUNTY			TARANAKI LAND DISTRICT		
DRAWN BY A.L.	CHECKED BY B.S.T.	DATE JULY 1980	FILE 13/163	REF. PLANS SO 9115	AIR PHOTOS 3762/E3



The ridge ends in sandstone cliffs dropping directly into the river estuary. These cliffs are covered in a mixture of native shrubs, perching lilies, and flax. On the south side of the reserve is a small area of poorly drained land at the foot of the knoll, covered in willows.

A reserve identification sign has been erected on the roadside (facing south) and a steep narrow track climbs up to the top of the knoll. The start of this track is in full view of the road, and is in a dangerous position on a bend of the road for those descending. Views of the estuary from the top of the knoll are almost completely obscured by the regenerating vegetation, though views further south can still be obtained from the clearing where the grave is sited.

Management implications are:

- the layout of the State Highway (bridge, cutting, curved alignment) does not lend itself to traffic stopping and parking so that travellers can visit the reserve.
- unless there is some control, the native vegetation and hydrangeas will grow in upon and eventually cover the grave and memorial cross. Many people, especially the McClutchie family, regard the memorial as a feature of some significance which should remain visible from the south bank of the Tongaporutu River and the State Highway.

1.7 Adjoining Land Use

Pou Tehia is virtually surrounded by the Tongaporutu River and the State Highway. The only adjoining lands are two small areas of Crown Land, to north and south of the reserve. The area to the north is a thin strip, which is physically part of the knoll, along a stream bank, while the area to the south is a continuation of the poorly-drained willow-covered part of the reserve through to the Tongaporutu road bridge. In this swampy area, *Plagianthus divaricatus*, which is only rarely found in reserves in Taranaki, has been recorded.

To the north of the reserve, the State Highway has been widened and realigned. Earthworks scars are healing and a rest area offering good views out over the Tongaporutu estuary has been created some 200 metres from the reserve.

On the eastern side of State Highway 3, the hills from the road to the skyline are covered in virgin and regenerating bush, most of it part of Tongaporutu State Forest. Hutiwai Road, which has its junction with the State Highway just opposite the reserve, provides access to farmland up the Hutiwai Stream valley, a tributary of the Tongaporutu.

Management implications are:

- the two adjoining Crown Land areas are closely associated with the reserve in terms of their vegetation cover and topography, and could with advantage be added to the reserve.
- the potential of the knoll as a scenic viewpoint is overshadowed by the advantages of the rest area to the north-west of the reserve.

1.8 Evaluation

(a) Historical

Pou Tehia is the site of an old Maori pa and is now a burial ground. The visitor to the site is confronted with banks and ditches, while on the summit of the site several pits can be seen. Also on the summit is a monument to Thomas McClutchie and his relatives.

(b) Scenic

The reserve can be seen when it is approached from both directions, and as an area of bush on the roadside is of scenic value, although there is little to distinguish it from the surrounding forested lands. Good views to the south can be obtained from the summit of the reserve, but views of the estuary are almost completely obscured by trees.

(c) Ecological

The present bush cover on the pa site probably came into existence shortly after the site was abandoned. It is now a good example of regenerating coastal vegetation, a type which is poorly represented in Taranaki reserves.

(d) Recreation

Recreational value is confined to the opportunity to view historic features.

Conclusion

Pou Tehia has been classified as an historic reserve subject to Section 18 of the Reserves Act 1977 (see Appendix I for the purpose of this type of reserve). In view of the presence of such fine historic features and the opportunities that this reserve offers for their protection, and in view of the ongoing significance of the site to the Maori people, this evaluation endorses the above classification.

2 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The Reserves Act 1977 sets out the requirements to be followed in managing historic reserves. In following the requirements of the Act, the management objectives for Pou Tehia are:

- 1 To protect and preserve the historic, archaeological, and educational value of the reserve, and to ensure that in achieving this the scenic values of the reserve are protected as far as possible.
- 2 To recognise the ongoing cultural significance of the site to the Maori people.

3 MANAGEMENT STATEMENTS

In order to manage Pou Tehia Historic Reserve in accordance with the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977 the Department will:

- 3.1 Continue to administer the reserve.
- 3.2 Seek to add the two adjoining areas of Crown Land to the reserve so as to improve reserve boundaries.

- 3.3 Make no special provision for public access upon or public use of the reserve, other than possibly rerouting the track to a less obtrusive and less dangerous line, and undertaking such measures as may be necessary to prevent erosion caused by public use.
- 3.4 Maintain a small clearing around the grave site and memorial cross, and maintain the character of the hydrangeas as memorial plantings.
- 3.5 Progressively remove the willows in the poorly drained area so as to encourage the emergence of a vegetation cover of native swamp-loving plants.

SECTION 18, RESERVES ACT 1977

18. Historic reserves—(1) It is hereby declared that the appropriate provisions of this Act shall have effect, in relation to reserves classified as historic reserves, for the purpose of protecting and preserving in perpetuity such places, objects, and natural features, and such things thereon or therein contained as are of historic, archaeological, cultural, educational, and other special interest.

(2) It is hereby further declared that, having regard to the general purposes specified in subsection (1) of this section, every historic reserve shall be so administered and maintained that—

- (a) The structures, objects, and sites illustrate with integrity the history of New Zealand:
- (b) The public shall have freedom of entry and access to the reserve, subject to the specific powers conferred on the administering body by sections 58 of this Act, and to 58A any bylaws under this Act applying to the reserve, and to such conditions and restrictions as the administering body considers to be necessary for the protection and general well-being of the reserve and for the protection and control of the public using it:
- (c) Where scenic, archaeological, geological, biological, or other scientific features, or indigenous flora or fauna, or wildlife are present on the reserve, those features or that flora or fauna or wildlife shall be managed and protected to the extent compatible with the principal or primary purpose of the reserve:
- (d) To the extent compatible with the principal or primary purpose of the reserve, its value as a soil, water, and forest conservation area shall be maintained:
- (e) Except where the Minister otherwise determines, the indigenous flora and fauna and natural environment shall as far as possible be preserved:

Provided that nothing in paragraph (c) of this subsection shall authorise the doing of anything with respect to fauna or wildlife that would contravene any provision of the Wildlife Act 1953 or any regulations or Proclamation or notification under that Act, and nothing in this subsection shall authorise the doing of anything with respect to archaeological features in any reserve that would contravene any provision of the Historic Places Act 1954.

Cf. 1953, No. 69, ss. 63, 64