

Ngāwhakangutu Reserve

Reserve Management Plan

August 2012

Prepared for Kāpiti Coast District Council
By Boffa Miskell Ltd

Preface

Kāpiti Coast District Council (the Council) is pleased to issue the *Ngāwhakangutu Management Plan*. The Management Plan has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977.

Public Consultation

Kāpiti Coast District Council has prepared the management plan in consultation with a community working group and Regional Council officers. A summary of consultation to date is included in Appendix 1.

Acknowledgements

The Kāpiti Coast District Council wish to thank the members of the Management Plan Working Group and interested parties who have provided comments and suggestions through the submission process.

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Introduction

Reserve Overview

The Management Plan has been prepared for the new reserve, now referred to as the Ngāwhakangutu Reserve. The reserve brings together eight land parcels that were agreed to be vested as reserves with Kāpiti Coast District Council, through the Tasman Lakes subdivision consenting and Plan Change 63 processes. The reserve will be administered by the Council as a single entity and comprises a total area of approximately 19.0 ha. The reserve will be an integral part of the new Tasman Lakes rural subdivision located at the northern end of Paetawa and Raukawa Roads at Peka Peka (Figure 1).

The Ngāwhakangutu Reserve comprises three distinct characters areas; the dynamic coastal dunes, an inland area of old dunes north of Te Kowhai Stream, and Te Kowhai Stream and its margins. For the purposes of this document, the reserve is discussed in terms of these three sub areas (The Coastal Dunes, The Inland area, and Te Kowhai Stream). Figure 1 shows the location and extent of these sub areas.

Management Plan Purpose

A management plan is a working document that sets out the objectives and policies for managing an area and how these will be achieved.

To assist long term planning of the on-going development of the reserve, this management plan proposes that a comprehensive development plan should be prepared. The objectives and principles that a development plan should address have been identified in this management plan.

Management Plan Format

The management plan is in three parts:

Part 1 Background and Description

Describes the site, its past, the intended development and the issues to be addressed by the objectives and policies.

Part 2 Reserve Development Plan

Sets out the principles to guide the preparation of the Development Plan that will subsequently be prepared.

Part 3 Management Plan Objectives and Policies

Sets out the long and short-term objectives for the management of the reserve, and the policies as to how the objectives will be achieved. It also outlines the actions required to implement the development of the reserve and assigns priorities to these.

Definitions

For the purposes of this document;

- Kāpiti Coast District Council is referred to as 'the Council'.
- The Ngāwhakangutu Reserve is also referred to as 'the reserve'.

- The stream running through the site is referred to as Te Kowhai Stream. It is also known and referred to in various other documents as Kowhai Stream, Ngāwhakangutu Stream, Hadfield Drain, and Hadfield Stream.

Part 1 Background and Description

1.1 Relevant Statutory and Planning Framework

Reserves Act (1977)

Section 41 of the Act requires that a management plan be prepared by the administering body for each reserve under its control. A management plan should provide guidance to the Council that ensure the reserve is used, managed, maintained and developed for the purpose for which the reserve is classified.

New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement

The policies in the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS) relate to the coastal environment of New Zealand. The Ngāwhakangutu Reserve lies within the coastal environment. The NZCPS states that, *“the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment including protection from inappropriate subdivision, use and development is a national priority.”*

Wellington Regional Policy Statement

The policy statement for the Wellington Region does not identify the locality of the reserve as either a nationally or regionally significant landscape, landform of ecological significance.

Greater Wellington Regional Council Freshwater Plan 1999

The management of Te Kowhai Stream is in accordance with Rule 40 of the Freshwater Plan.

Kāpiti Coast District Plan

The reserve area is currently zoned rural in the District Plan. However, it will ultimately be zoned Open Space as a result of Plan Change 63 (Peka Peka North Rural Residential Development Area). The coastal portion of the reserve lies within the District Plan Outstanding Landscape overlay that runs the length of the Kāpiti Coast (see Figure 3).

Relevant District Plan provisions are noted in Appendix 2.

Kāpiti Coast: Choosing Futures, Coastal Strategy

The Coastal Strategy was developed with significant community input to identify a district-wide management vision and management principles for the coastal environment of Kāpiti. The strategy identifies the management issues and actions for each local coastal area within the district and provides an action plan. The Peka Peka Action Plan is relevant to the reserve. The provisions of this operational management plan are consistent with the management vision and principles of the Coastal Strategy.

Kāpiti Coast District Council's Beach Bylaw 2009

The purpose of this Bylaw is to manage human activities on the beach and protect the beach environment in accordance with the overarching objective defined in the 'Kāpiti Coast District Council Coastal Strategy 2006'¹.

Management Plans related to the site

As a result of the Tasman Lakes subdivision and the plan change 63 processes, consent conditions required that the Applicant (Tasman Lakes Estate Ltd) undertake certain works and prepare management and development plans for specific parts of the site that are to be vested as reserve. The *Reserve Management Plan* is consistent with these management plans, and the yet to be prepared *Ngāwhakangutu Reserve Development Plan* should also be consistent with these plans.

Peka Peka Dunes Restoration Plan prepared by Jim Dahm of Eco Nomos Ltd and dated 20 November 2006.¹

'*Kowhai Stream Management Plan*' prepared by Boffa Miskell Ltd for Tasman Lakes Estate Ltd, August 2008²

1.2 Location and Legal Description

The reserve is located in the coastal environment between Peka Peka Road and Te Hapua Road (see Figure 2).

The land parcels that make up the reserve are shown on Figure 3 and listed below.

Legal Description of lots to be managed as part of the reserve	Vested as:
Lot 11 DP 394930 (5.79ha) Lot 35 (0.5ha) Lot 36 (5.95ha) Lot 37 (2.12 ha) Lot 38 (0.61ha) Lot 39 (1.5ha) Lot 40 (0.53ha) Lot 41 (2.00ha)	Esplanade Reserve Unformed Road Recreation Reserve* Local Purpose Reserve (esplanade)* Recreation Reserve* Recreation Reserve* Local Purpose Reserve (esplanade)* Recreation Reserve*
Total area 19.0 Ha	
* As per Consent Conditions # 9 & 10 (RM080180) September 2008	

1.3 Reserve Context

In the context of the wider Peka Peka coastal area, the reserve provides a significant open space that extends not only along the coast but also inland. The reserve has the potential to

¹ Initial 8 Lot Coastal Subdivision. Environment Court Consent order June 2007

² Consent Condition # 13 (RM080180) September 2008

become an important open space destination and complement the Pharazyn Reserve to the south (see Figure 3).

In keeping with the character of the coastal area, it is intended the reserve provide open space and access to enhance informal recreation, such as walking, cycling, picnicking, horse back riding and enjoyment of the coastal environment as opposed to being developed intensively for recreation activities.

The reserve has been created as an integral part of a low density residential subdivision. As the private lots are developed the context of the reserve will change from open rural environment to a more populated area. It is likely too, that development of the residential lots will result in the establishment of trees and other woody vegetation; consequently a more enclosed landscape character, particularly to the south of Te Kowhai Stream will, in time, prevail.

Continued pressure to subdivide rural land along the coast and for residential purposes is likely to continue. Such development in the vicinity of the reserve will serve to increase its future importance as a public open space. The land to the north of the site is currently open farmland. Any proposal to subdivide this farmland in the future would present an opportunity to extend the reserve and enhance the open space network of the wider area.

1.4 Site History

The Kāpiti Coast has a rich history of Māori occupation. The coastline provided an important route along the coast and a plentiful source to food from the sea, rivers, estuaries, streams, wetlands and forests. Ngati Raukawa are tangata whenua of the area. The cultural impact assessment report prepared by Ngā Hau o Pukehou Environmental for the Tasman Lakes resource consent applications provides a brief overview of the Māori history of the site and local area (attached as Appendix 2).

Farming over many decades has substantially modified the inland area of the site. Land drainage, mechanical cultivation and removal of the native vegetation have together modified what was once swampy flaxlands to drier grazed pasture. The larger higher inland dunes still remain. The coastal dunes have also been subject to grazing by sheep and cattle over a long period. The dune landforms are still relatively intact and continue to be shaped by the coastal environment. However, colonisation by non-native plant species has changed the biodiversity of the area, in a similar way to what has occurred along much of the Kāpiti Coast.

The name of the reserve was discussed at the first working group meeting. It was generally agreed that 'Tasman Lakes' was not necessarily an appropriate name; however, it was previously used as a 'working' name until a final name is agreed upon. It was agreed at the Management Plan Working Group meeting that confirmation of the original Māori name for the locality be sought as a possible name for the reserve. The land block name for the area is Ngawakangutu and was once a sizable swamp³. Te Kowhai Stream that runs through the area was also known as Ngawhakangutu⁴.

³ Te Waari Careek, via KCDC officer Mike Cardiff.

⁴ *Cultural Impact Assessment Report*. Prepared by Nga Hau o Pukehou Environmental for the Tasman Lakes Rural Hamlet Resource consent application, September 2005

1.5 Physical Environment

The 19.0 ha reserve comprises a strip of active coastal foredunes, interdunal sand plains and modified older dunes further inland. Two sections of Te Kowhai Stream lie within the reserve with a short section meandering outside the reserve through the adjoining private property to the north.

Climate

The mild coastal climate is dominated by the predominating west-northwest wind. The persistent wind has a major effect on the physical shape and ecology of the coastal environment. A dynamic sand dune system is the basis of the landform, with the prevailing wind forming an extensive network of sand dunes aligned parallel to the beach.

Coastal Dunes

The coastal dune landforms are relatively unmodified and retain a high degree of natural character. The coastal part of the reserve lies within the Outstanding Landscape overlay identified in the District Plan (Figure 3). Boundary fences and a recently developed walking track run through the foredunes parallel to the coastline. Trail bike activity, throughout the dune area has created deep ruts, and damage to the dunes, particularly inland of the foredunes in the northern part of the reserve. This type of physical damage has the potential to initiate 'blow-out' areas and increase erosion.

Vegetation on the dunes is a mixture of low growing native and exotic coastal species interspersed with a mixture of pest plants and the occasional wind-shorn tree such as kanuka, and taupata⁵. Marram is the predominant foreshore species with some native spinifex on the seaward side of the foredunes at the southern end of the site. The more significant species in the coastal dunes include small areas of spinifex, kiwi rush, sand coprosma and saltmarsh vegetation. Woody pest plants include boxthorn, blackberry and lupin.

Just behind the foredunes, south of Te Kowhai Stream, a mix of unmanaged rank grassland, and marram dominate with evidence of blackberry establishing now that grazing stock have been excluded.

Restoration/replanting of the 'blow-outs' on the seaward face of the section of coastal foredunes adjacent to the Te Kowhai Stream mouth is proposed⁶. This work fulfils an earlier resource consent condition imposed as part of the subdivision of the eight coastal residential lots.

Inland Area

The inland part of the reserve has been modified by farming activities. Drainage of the original interdunal swamps, grazing and cultivation associated with cropping and pasture improvement have, over time, levelled the inland area from what would have been a more undulating interdunal topography. However, the natural dune topography is still evident with the remaining high dunes being a prominent element of the inland part of the reserve.

⁵ More detail of the coastal vegetation can be found in the Kāpiti Coast District Council Coastal Vegetation Survey 2005.

⁶ Condition 38 Requires, the Restoration of the seaward face of the dunes in accordance with the *Peka Peka Dune Restoration Plan*, prepared by Jim Dahm, Eco Nomos Ltd November 2006

Improved grasses dominate the inland area with small patches of boxthorn associated with the dunes, and rushes in the damper hollows.

Cattle continue to graze the area north of Te Kowhai Stream and currently play an important vegetation management role for the as yet undeveloped part of the reserve. A fence along the northern side of Te Kowhai Stream excludes cattle from the stream and its banks.

Te Kowhai Stream and Riparian Margins

At the coast and within the foredunes, the stream has a natural meandering character with some tidal influence near its mouth. The only natural riparian vegetation occurs where the stream exits the dunes at the coast. At the point where the stream meets the beach, a small lagoon sometimes forms.

Inland of the foredunes, the stream has been channelled into a straight, high-sided ditch, also known as Hadfield Drain. This part of the stream has a low level of natural value, with little natural riparian vegetation and is dominated by exotic herbaceous grass species. Until recently both sides of the stream were grazed by stock and drains from adjacent paddocks discharged stormwater and ground water into it. Maintenance of the stream occasionally requires weed to be removed as a flood mitigation measure.

The inland section of the stream's south bank has recently been modified in accordance with *The Kowhai Stream Management Plan*⁷. The objective of the modification and associated planting, was to reduce erosion, improve the stream's annual flow, and reduce the risk of flooding by naturalising the margin and re-establishing appropriate riparian vegetation. The stream edge modification is intended to improve its habitat values and reduce the need to remove weed build up. Mechanical removal of weed may however still be required from time to time. The Council will consider removing weed from the stream when the water level reaches R.L. 2.33 A.M.S.L. which is 833 mm above the invert level of the culvert on Raukawa Road, in accordance with the Greater Wellington Regional Council's Freshwater Plan, rule 40. This matter will be kept under review, by the Stormwater and Coastal group, regarding the effect of this regime on the surrounding properties' drainage. Space between the top of the stream bank (north side) and the stock fence is sufficient to allow access for ditch cleaning equipment.

Pest Plants

The most significant pest plants are blackberry and boxthorn, which occur in the coastal dune area. Boxthorn is a predominant pest in the dune land area, throughout the district. The Council's current policy is to control rather than eradicate the boxthorn.

Blackberry is not currently apparent as a significant pest plant. However, it is likely that grazing by stock, until recently, has been providing some degree of control, and it may become more prevalent in the dune area in the future.

Wildlife

A wildlife survey was included as part the ecological assessment⁸ prepared for the Tasman Lakes Plan change assessment of effects. The key findings are summarised below.

⁷ As per Condition 31 of the resource consent, and Condition 7(a) of the Plan Change 63 Consent Order

⁸ *Tasman Lakes Estate Ecological Survey and Assessment of Effects*, prepared by Boffa Miskell Ltd for Pritchard Group. October 2006

The survey found that birdlife was dominated by exotic species. Pukeko were observed near the Te Kowhai Stream and NZ pipit in the dunes. Black backed gulls and spur-winged plover were seen on the pasture of the inland areas. Forty one bird species were recorded on the site, 17 introduced and 24 native or endemic species. Six birds with a national threat status were seen during the survey, all of which were restricted to the beach or seen at sea (see observed bird species list⁹ Appendix 3).

Eel and some native fish were observed in the Te Kowhai Stream, but the steep-sided stream banks offer poor fish habitat. The recent modification to the south bank of the stream are also intended to improve fish habitat in the stream by allowing overhanging vegetation to establish, which would provide shade along the stream margin.

The Te Kowhai Stream mouth and adjacent shoreline appears to provide a locally important food supply for birds. Schools of whitebait were observed regularly through the survey period with gulls, pied stilts and oyster catchers congregating along the stream shore at each tide change.

A number of lizard species are likely to be present in the dunes and rank grass areas.

Rabbits are evident throughout the reserve.

Access and Infrastructure

With the exception of the formed walkways and fencing, the existing infrastructure within the reserve is minimal.

The formed pedestrian path, parallel to the coast, through the front of the coastal dunes provides public access to the beach, from the southern end of the Tasman Lakes residential subdivision and from the Pingao Lane road-end. Gates at each end of the path largely limit access to pedestrians only.

A pedestrian link has recently been developed along the south bank of Te Kowhai Stream between Pingao Lane and Raukawa Road. A foot bridge has been constructed across Te Kowhai Stream at the end of Pingao Lane to provide access to the northern part of the reserve.

The Kāpiti Coast District Council Beach Bylaws (2009) prohibit trail bikes and other motorised vehicles in the dunes. Trail bikers occasionally use the dune area as an informal recreation area. An informal trail bike circuit on the interdunal flats at the northern end of the dune area appears not to be used as frequently as it once was. The bikes can access the dune area from the beach and until recently were also gaining access via the undeveloped residential lots behind the dunes. As the residential lots are developed and become occupied, a level of informal surveillance will be provided by the neighbours to the dunes, and it could be expected that trail bike use of the area would consequently lessen.

Horse riders also use the dune area to access the beach, however this activity must be contained to the track through the dunes. The Kāpiti Coast District Council Beach Bylaws (2009) states “Horses are prohibited from traversing all areas of the beach other than the foreshore and appropriately marked beach access ways”.

⁹ ibid

The Council's Cycleways, Walkways and Bridleways Strategy (CWB) indicates notional walking routes through the site, the Millennium Cycleway route along the coast and a bridleway along the Te Kowhai Stream. The formation of the walkway through the front of the coastal dunes, as part of the coastal subdivision appear to have superseded the notional links shown in the CWB document. Future development of pathways within the site will need to be consistent with the CWB strategy.

Car parking is provided at the end of Pingao Lane beside the Te Kowhai Stream. Roadside parking is also available at the end of Raukawa Road, at the eastern boundary of the reserve. A future road link between the end of Raukawa Road and land north of the reserve has been provided for through the reserve (Figure 3).

Two Kapuni gas pipelines run in a north-south direction through the modified dune area. Natural Gas Corporation (NGC) operates the pipelines, and they would need to assess any earthworks proposed in the vicinity of the pipes, to ensure the protection of the underground infrastructure.

1.6 Management and Development

The reserve is administered by the Council. The Council will be responsible for the future development of the reserve other than development works that are the responsibility of the 'developer' as part of the Tasman Lakes Development resource consents and Plan Change process. Most of these works and plantings are completed.

Preparation of an integrated Development Plan for the reserve is the critical first step in planning and implementing future development of the reserve.

Part 2 Reserve Development Plan

The Council will undertake to prepare a Development Plan for the reserve however this is subject to allocation of the necessary funding. The development plan will provide a long-term framework that ensures the progressive development of the reserve occurs in a consistent and integrated manner. It will also ensure resources for the development of the reserve can be planned for and budgeted as part of the Council's annual and long term planning processes.

The actions and staging of the Reserve Development Plan will be subject to Council approval and availability of resources.

2.1 Principles – Reserve Development Plan Preparation

The Principles that will guide the preparation of the Development Plan are listed below.

The Reserve Development Plan shall:

1. Be consistent with the Strategic Vision and management policies of this Management Plan.

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2. Be consistent with relevant council statutory and non statutory planning documents such as the *Choosing Futures: Coastal Strategy*, and *Cycleways, Walkways and Bridleways Strategy*.

3. Be consistent with the following management plans¹⁰

Peka Peka Dunes Restoration Plan prepared by Jim Dahm of Eco Nomos Ltd and dated 20 November 2006.¹¹

'Kowhai Stream Management Plan' prepared by Boffa Miskell Ltd for Tasman Lakes Estate Ltd, August 2008¹²

4. Be prepared in consultation with the community, including, tangata whenua, Council officers and stakeholder groups (the yet to be formed 'Friends of' group for the reserve), Peka Peka Guardians, Kāpiti Environmental Action, Department of Conservation, Kāpiti branch of Forest and Bird Society.
5. Seek to enhance the ecological and recreational values of the reserve throughout the site. Specifically the objectives of the three component areas of the reserve need to be addressed

- Coastal Dunes:
 - i) Maintain as open space,
 - ii) Enhance the integrity and stability of the dynamic dune landforms, and
 - iii) Protect and enhance the indigenous vegetation and habitat.
- Inland Reserve: (north of Te Kowhai Stream)
 - i) Maintain and enhance as open space for a range of passive recreational activities, and
 - ii) Retain and enhance the natural values of the area.
- Te Kowhai Stream and riparian margins:
 - i) Enhance stream/riparian biodiversity and habitat,
 - ii) Enhance water quality, and
 - iii) Retain and enhance the natural values of the area.

6. Provide facilities for future passive recreation, including signage, interpretation/education opportunities, site furniture, paths, bridges, fences and planting.
7. Seek to enhance and consider long term opportunities for expansion of the reserve and physical links that extend beyond the reserve and add to the local open space networks.
8. Seek opportunities for projects that encourage community participation.

¹⁰ As a result of the Tasman Lakes subdivision and the plan change 63 processes, consent conditions required that the Applicant (Tasman Lakes Estate Ltd) carried out certain works and prepare management and development plans for specific parts of the site that are to be vested as reserve. (Refer Section 1.1)

¹¹ Initial 8 Lot Coastal Subdivision. Environment Court Consent order June 2007

¹² Consent Condition # 13 (RM080180) September 2008

9. Identify and prioritise development actions, including estimated timeframes and costs.

Part 3 Strategic Vision Management Objectives and Policies

The strategic vision is the over-arching purpose of the Management Plan. It is a statement of intent for the reserve and serves as the reference for the development plan and the objectives and policies in the Management Plan.

The management objectives and policies define how the reserve will be managed in the short and long term.

3.1 Strategic Vision

The Strategic Vision for the Ngāwhakangutu Reserve is:

The Ngāwhakangutu Reserve will be developed and managed to provide opportunities for informal recreation and enhancement of the site's coastal and riparian values.

3.2 Management Objectives and Policies

3.2.1 Administration and Management

The Ngāwhakangutu Reserve is administered by the Leisure and Open Space group of the Kāpiti Coast District Council, under the direction of the Leisure and Open Space Asset Manager. Administration of the reserve includes day to day management, budget planning as well as long-term development planning.

Policies

- i) The reserve shall be managed by the Leisure and Open Space Group of the Kāpiti Coast District Council, in accordance with the appropriate classifications of reserve land.
- ii) The Management Plan shall be reviewed regularly and amended where necessary in accordance with the requirements of the Reserves Act (1977).
- iii) The Council shall support the establishment and activities of one community group whose purpose is advocacy for and hands-on assistance with development of the reserve, as an open space and passive recreational reserve. The Council shall prepare, within 2012-2014 period, a long term Development Plan for the reserve in accordance with the development principles set out in Part 2 of this document.

3.2.2 Landscape Character

The Ngāwhakangutu Reserve has two distinct areas of landscape character that are physically and visually distinct; essentially the coastal dunes and the more modified inland area that includes the Te Kowhai Stream and the land to its north.

The coastal dune land area is bounded by the Tasman Sea, the Tasman Lake residential subdivision and the Te Kowhai Stream to the north. The dune landform is largely unmodified in terms of its physical composition. However the vegetation in the dunes is dominated by exotic plant species. Notwithstanding, the dune area has a strong natural character, and the coastal environment is a dominant feature of the area.

In contrast, the inland parts of the reserve are relatively modified and have a lower level of natural character than the coastal dunes. The inland dunes have been flattened somewhat from farming operations, the land has been drained, and the Te Kowhai Stream channelised.

The reserve is located in the coastal environment on the outskirts of the expanding Waikanae urban area. As residential development intensifies in the area the reserve will become more and more important as a recreational open space. Preparation of the Reserve Development Plan needs to reflect the different landscape character areas within the reserve and also address the changing open space needs of the community as the landscape context of the general locality changes over time.

Policies

- i) The landscape character and natural values of the coastal and inland parts of the reserve shall be recognised, protected and enhanced.
- ii) There shall be no unauthorised inappropriate earthworks or built structures in the dune area with the exception of signage, rubbish bins and bench seats as needs require.
- iii) The Council shall promote the protection of the dune environment and landforms from inappropriate use through public education, monitoring and action.
- iv) Pedestrians shall be encouraged to use the formed tracks in the dune area.
- v) New pathways shall only be constructed through the dune area where there is a clear need, and where a formed path would protect the dune landforms from pedestrian traffic.

3.2.3 Ecological values and wildlife

The reserve is a small part of the coastal dune land strip that runs the length of the Kāpiti Coast, and has particular value in that it runs inland, connecting the coastal edge with land and hydrological systems inland.

The detail of the development in the area north of the Te Kowhai Stream is yet to be determined but the Reserve Development Plan for that area should seek to enhance the ecological biodiversity and integrity of the reserve and wider natural systems to which it is connected.

The stream environment of the Te Kowhai Stream has been significantly modified over many decades. Enhancement works as a requirement of Plan Change 63 (see Section 1.5) of the inland section of the stream have been implemented. Future development and management of the reserve should as far as practicable, seek to continue with the

enhancement of the stream consistent with the objectives of *The Kowhai Stream Management Plan*¹³, which are to reduce erosion, improve annual flow, reduce risk of flooding, naturalise stream margins and improve stream habitat values.

Policies

- i) All vegetation planted in the reserve shall be eco-sourced native species.
- ii) Any planting in the reserve shall reflect the natural systems and patterns of the location.
- iii) Development of the reserve shall seek to enhance/restore the native habitat as far as is practicable.
- iv) Development and management of the reserve shall as far as practicable, enhance the Te Kowhai Stream environment and habitat as outlined in The Kowhai Stream Management Plan.
- v) No exotic vegetation shall be planted in the reserve.

3.2.4 Vegetation Management

Weeds and exotic species are a continual threat to the natural character of the dune environment. Although boxthorn is a major pest species, other weeds such as blackberry, are also a threat. The Council's statement for boxthorn is control rather than eradication. Weeds such as blackberry need continual monitoring and control.

Policies

- i) Pest plant species shall be monitored and regularly controlled to protect the ecological and natural values of the reserve.

3.2.5 Recreation and Access

The Ngāwhakangutu Reserve is an area for passive recreational uses such as walking, picnicking and play. The pathways through the dune land area are part of the wider local cycle, walkway and bridleway route system, along the coast and beyond.

Policies

- i) The reserve shall only be used for passive recreational activity.
- ii) Authorised service vehicles may access the modified dune and pond areas to carry out Council operations.

3.2.6 Buildings Structures and Furniture

The Reserve Development Plan will identify and plan any new facilities required for the reserve. Facilities such as seating, tables, bridges, interpretation panels, toilet facilities, play

¹³ As per Condition 31 of the resource consent, and Condition 7(a) of the Plan Change 63 Consent Order

equipment and boardwalks will be established on a needs only basis as required for the enhancement of the use of the reserve for passive recreational activities.

The design and location of buildings, structures and site furniture can have a major impact on the visual appeal of a reserve. As a general principle, constructed features should be complementary to the open space qualities of the reserve and this can be achieved by:

- designing appropriately to the site and unified throughout; and
- locations chosen should reduce the visual impact or enhance the natural features.

Site furniture such as bench seating, vehicle barriers, rubbish bins, although small in scale, need to be sensitively designed and located to avoid visual clutter of the reserve.

Picnic tables and barbeques should be located where they are most appropriate, and in association with planted areas that provide shade and shelter, rather than in the middle of large open spaces.

Rubbish bins must be easily seen and placed where they will be used, but must be of a scale and colour, as not to appear prominent within the reserve.

Policies

- i) The Council shall provide built facilities to facilitate and enhance the use of the reserve for passive recreational activities as described in the Reserve Development Plan (yet to be prepared).
- ii) The Council shall provide site-wide signage that specifies way-finding and site information to the public as required.
- iii) Signs shall be of a consistent style that is appropriate to the natural character of the site.

3.2.7 Maintenance and Pest Management

The public use and condition of the reserve needs to be monitored and appropriate action taken to ensure:

- the enjoyment and safety of visitors;
- protection of the natural character, including landforms, vegetation and ecology; and
- the provision of suitable habitat for wetland bird species, including areas of open water.

The Council must undertake sound environmental management of the reserve including the control of pest plants, invasive plants and pest animals.

Policies

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- i) The reserve shall be maintained regularly to an appropriate standard and damage or environmental problems attended to quickly.
- ii) The Council shall monitor and control pest plants and animals on a regular basis.
- iii) All structures and site furniture shall be maintained in a good state of repair.
- iv) Toilets (if present) shall be maintained to an appropriate standard.
- v) Rubbish bins shall be of adequate size and number, appropriate to the demand and emptied in a timely manner as use dictates.
- vi) Grazing of the large open area north of the Te Kowhai Stream shall be considered until such time as the area is developed and formally maintained as a passive recreation open space as outlined in the yet to be produced Reserve Development Plan.

3.2.8 Controls and Prohibitions

Conflicts can occur in public reserves when recreational activity or use is incompatible with the reserve's objectives. The Council seeks to encourage use of the reserve for passive recreation while also protecting and enhancing the natural qualities of the site. Controls and prohibitions seek to avoid management problems and conflicts between recreational use and the long-term integrity of the site's natural features.

Policies

- i) Activities that adversely affect the reserve, its landforms, vegetation, natural character or recreational values shall be prohibited if incompatible with the reserve objectives and policies.
- ii) Motorised vehicles are prohibited in the dune area (as per the Kāpiti Coast District Council Beach Bylaws 2009)
- iii) Horses and mountain bikes are prohibited from the dune area unless using the designated formed paths.
- iv) Dogs shall only be permitted in the reserve if kept under control.

Bibliography

Boffa Miskell Ltd (2006) *Tasman Lakes Estate Ecological Survey and Assessment of Effects*, prepared for Pritchard Group.

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author Jim Dahm

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APPENDIX 1

Consultation to Date

Preparation of the Ngāwhakangutu Reserve Management Plan

The Council prepared a Draft Management Plan for Council Approval, prior to publicly notifying a Draft Management Plan called for submissions.

A Management Plan Working Group was formed to assist the preparation of the Draft plan, and comprised representation from the community including Plan Change 63 appellants, interest groups, local iwi, and the Council. The working group met on 20 November 2008.

Plan Change 63 Appellants- Lowell Manning and Silvia Irwin
Kāpiti Environmental Action
Department of Conservation
Kāpiti Forest and Bird Society- Kāpiti Branch
Peka Peka Guardians
Iwi- Richard Orzecki

Council officers- Mike Cardiff, Sara Bell, Stuart Kilmister, Rob Cross

The Management Plan Working Group met in November 2008 to identify and discuss the issues relating to the future development and management of the reserve. Feedback from this meeting has been incorporated into this Draft document which be circulated to the working group members for comment.

APPENDIX 2

Relevant District Plan Provisions

C.10 LANDSCAPE

Objective 1. That the district's outstanding landscapes are identified and protected from the adverse environmental effects of subdivision, use and development.

C.11.1 ECOLOGY OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

A. Natural Environment

Policy 8. Encourage planting of locally sourced indigenous species adjacent to water bodies and other areas that will restore linkages and ecological corridors.

Policy 9. Encourage restoration of degraded habitats with locally sourced (genetically appropriate) native vegetation.

Policy 10. Advocate for the protection of areas identified as suitable for providing linking corridors for fauna.

Policy 11. Maintain and enhance the natural landscape values of the district.

B. Tangata Whenua

Policy 1. Provide for Tangata Whenua input into the decision-making process, regarding proposals affecting policies and the natural resources of importance to Tangata Whenua.

Policy 3. Recognise and provide for Kaitiakitanga by Tangata Whenua in the management of the natural environment.

C.12 OPEN SPACES AND RESERVES

Objective 1. To identify, maintain and enhance the open space and recreation resources of the district to ensure that the present and future needs of the district for recreational opportunities and open areas are met without adverse effects on the physical values of the natural environment.

Policy 1. Recognise the open space amenity value of reserves and areas of significant scenic, ecological, scientific and national importance, including native trees, significant landforms and natural character.

Policy 2. Identify and ensure the development of a walking and cycleway system in co-operation with landowners and other agencies, linking areas of open space, ecological reserves, schools, commercial and community facilities, public transport and residential adjoining landowners.

Ngāwhakangutu Reserve - Management Plan

Policy 3. Provide for a wide range of recreational activities while ensuring that adverse effects on the environment are avoided or mitigated.

Policy 6. Protect the open space value of both private and public land being used for open space and recreation.

APPENDIX 3

Site History

Section 3.0 from

Cultural Impact Assessment Report. Prepared by Ngā Hau o Pukehou Environmental for the Tasman Lakes Rural Hamlet, September 2005

3.0 Māori History of Ngawhakangutu

During the late 1820's, the Kapiti Coast was inhabited by Ngati Toa-rangatira, and their allies from the Ngati Raukawa, Ngati Ruanui and Te Ati Awa tribes

Ngawhakangutu is the historical name given to this specific area of land that is part of the land block known as Ngakaroro. During the 1820's Te Puoho and Ngāti Tama occupied a Pā called Ngakaroro. This Pā was situated close to the Ngawhakangutu Lagoon.¹



Plate 2: Looking northeast towards suspected Pā site Ngakaroro

The Kowhai stream that runs through this land block was also known as Ngawhakangutu; this stream ran into the Kowhai lagoon

¹ Carkeek W C Pg 126
CIA RC Applicant Pritchard Group Limited
Final 4 T4W Carkeek LL R McNaught

Lot 3 RM 040295 of Lot 4 DP 2392
September 2005

close to its mouth and then meandered north into the Ngāwhakangutu Lagoon. The land was ²once owned by Te Rangihaeata.³



Plate 7: Kowhai/Ngāwhakangutu Stream meandering north towards the Repo/Raupo.
(Photo taken from southwest looking northeast)

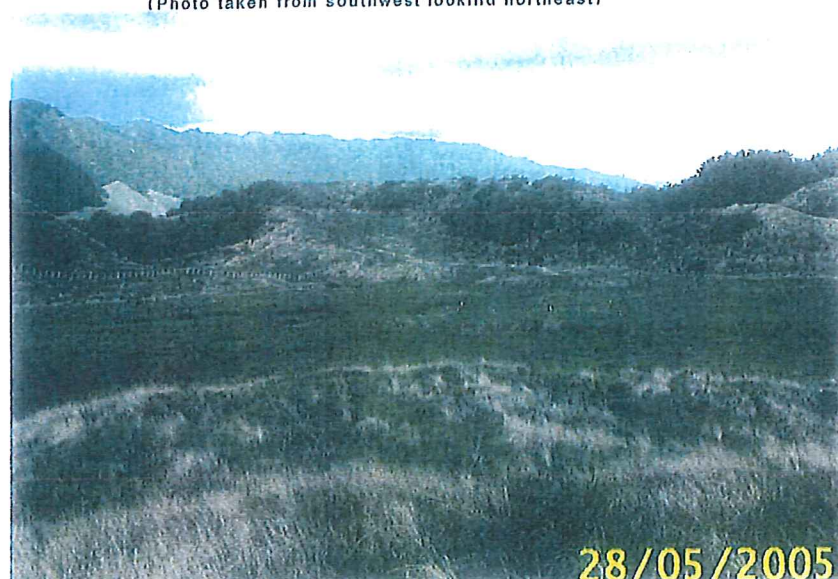


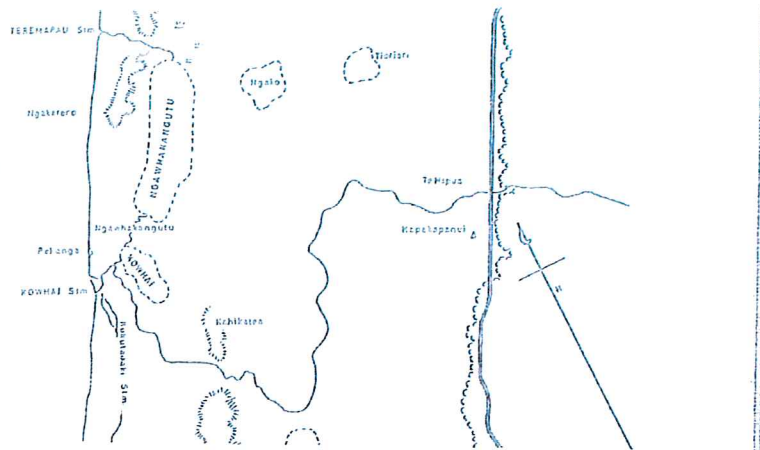
Plate 8: Repo/Raupo lwi suspect this was once the Ngāwhakangutu Lagoon. Middens have been found on both the left and right knolls

² Hoani Te Okoro of Ngāti Toa.

³ Pg128 Carkeek, WC of Map 3 Pg 171
CIA RC Applicant Pritchard Group Limited
Final 4 TW Carkeek LL R McNaught

Lot 3 RM 040295 of Lot 4 DP 2392
September 2005

Near the Kowhai Lagoon inland of Ngawhakangutu is a Trig station called Kahikatea. This place was once the scene of a bitter quarrel between Ngāti Huia and Ngāti Turanga over land in the area. ⁴Shortly after the dispute the land from Maraekuta to Kahikatea was given to Matene Te Whiwhi. According to ⁵Wi Parata Te Kakakura Kahikatea once belonged to Te Pehi.



Because of its geographical layout this block was utilised as a thoroughfare by the Maori of the day, and was the scene of fighting and skirmishes during the battles of ⁶Haowhenua and Te Kuititanga. Following the attack on the Kainga of Te Tupe Ngati Raukawa moved to the coast where they fell in with a party of women who were bringing food to the Haowhenua Pā. Many of these women were killed with the remainder escaping to the safety of the Haowhenua Pā.

In October 1839 Ngati Raukawa attacked Te Ati Awa of Waikanae in the battle called ⁷TeKuititanga. Te Ati Awa managed to repulse the attack but there were heavy losses on both sides. Most of the prisoners taken were later killed. The battles fought covered a wide area from Waikanae extending along and including the flat area on the immediate eastern side of the coastal sand dunes known as Ngawhakangutu.

⁴ MLC Ngakaroro 1874

⁵ MLC Ngarara 1890

⁶ 1834 Smith S P

⁷ 1890 Ngarara Case "revenge for Haowhenua" Hera to Wairengarenga

CIA RC Applicant *Britchard Group Limited*

Lot 3 RM 040295 of Lot 4 DP 2392

Final 4 TW Carkeek LL R McNaught

September 2005



Plate 9: Flatlands where Ngāti Raukawa attacked the group of women on their way to Haowhenua Pā.



Western Vista across the flatlands from the eastern slopes of Ngako. The dunes of the far west were Kainga sites.

Te Rauparaha's son Tamihana Te Rauparaha later utilised these lands for grazing his sheep from 1855 until his death. Harawira Te Mohiwi built a bridge at Tamihana's request over the Ngawhakangutu stream. The sheep ran at a place called Te Kaikatea, a large track of land that had a swamp either side of it. This was considered the best site for grazing.

Whaling Stations were established during the 1830's on Kapiti Island. The close proximity of Ngawhakangutu meant that waka

would come across regularly from Kapiti for food resources and to solidify relationships. Intermarriage between European whalers and Maori took place at this time, and from these marriages a number of well-known local families are descended. Flax was cultivated in the swamp areas and harvested for the making of ropes, nets and baskets because of the strength that the flax fibre (muka) held. The rangatira Te Rauparaha established a very lucrative flax trade that extended to the top of the South Island.

APPENDIX 4

Bird Species Observed

P 7-9, *Ecological Survey and Assessment of Effects*. Prepared by Boffa Miskell Ltd for Pritchard Group Ltd October 2006

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4.1 Birds

Distribution

Within the Plan Change footprint the birds seen were consistent with rural land in a coastal setting. Birdlife was dominated by exotic species such as sparrows, redpolls, starlings, and finches. Some native birds such as fantail and grey warbler occur within the small areas of native treeland on the rear dunes. Several pukeko were present in Hadfield Drain. NZ pipit was seen on the dunes. Black-backed gull and spur-winged plover were seen on the pasture. A single pied tit was seen in boxthorn scrub on the eastern margin of the site.

Native birds were far more abundant on the broad section of beach surrounding Kowhai Stream mouth with several hundred terns, gulls, oystercatchers, and shags seen in the course of the study (photos 6 & 8).

It is understood that the seasonal flooding of the wet basins behind the foredunes attracts a variety of opportunistic waterfowl, which come to feed on insects and depart when this resource disappears.

The following table lists all birds seen during the site visits and the subsequent coastal survey. The birds are broadly sorted by their habitat preferences.

Table 3: Birds Observations

Species	Origin	Threat Status	Stream (Freshwater)	Pasture	Shrublands on stable dunes	Active foredune	Sandy beach / estuary	At sea
Pukeko	N	Not threatened	✓		✓			
Kingfisher, NZ	E	Not threatened	✓		✓	✓		
Paradise shelduck	E	Not threatened	✓	✓			✓	
Mallard	I	-	✓	✓			✓	
Welcome swallow	C	Coloniser	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Heron, white faced	N	Not threatened		✓				

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Magpie	I	-		✓	✓			
Song thrush	I	-		✓	✓			
Dunnock	I	-		✓	✓	✓		
Pheasant, ring necked	I	-		✓	✓	✓		
Redpoll	I	-		✓	✓	✓		
Sparrow, house	I	-		✓	✓	✓		
Yellowhammer	I	-		✓	✓	✓		
Blackbird	I	-		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Chaffinch	I	-		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Goldfinch	I	-		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Greenfinch	I	-		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Harrier hawk	N	Not threatened		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Skylark	I	-		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Spur-winged plover	C	Coloniser		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Starling	I	-		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Canada Goose	I	-		✓			✓	✓
Gull, black-backed	N	Not threatened		✓			✓	✓
Grey Warbler	E	Not threatened			✓	✓		
Silvereye	N	Not threatened			✓	✓		
Eastern rosella	I	-			✓			
Fantail	E	Not threatened			✓			
Pied tit	I	-			✓			
Tui	E	Not threatened			✓			
Pipit, NZ	E	Not threatened				✓	✓	
Pied still	N	Not threatened					✓	
Gull, red-billed	E	Not threatened					✓	✓
Oystercatcher, pied	E	Not threatened					✓	✓
Oystercatcher, variable	E	Not threatened					✓	✓
Shag, black	E	6 Sparse					✓	✓
Shag, little	E	Not threatened					✓	✓
Shag, little-black	N	6 Sparse					✓	✓
Tern, Caspian	N	3 Nationally vulnerable					✓	✓
Tern, white-fronted	N	5 Gradual decline					✓	✓
Petrel, Westland	E	7 Range restricted						✓
Shearwater, sooty	N	5 Gradual decline						✓
COUNT	41							

E = endemic: Only known to breed in New Zealand
 N = native: Naturally found in New Zealand and known to breed in other countries.
 C = coloniser: Recently arrived in New Zealand and still expanding range.
 I = introduced: Deliberately brought to New Zealand

Forty-one species in total have been recorded on the site, 17 introduced, and 24 native or endemic species. Six birds seen during this study have a national threat status, however, all six were restricted to the beach or were seen at sea. None were seen within the footprint of the plan change. Note that the record of a Westland black petrel was of a fresh carcass washed up on Peka Peka beach.

Relative Abundance

Table 3 shows the relative abundance of wildlife observed during the stationary point counts at Kowhai Stream Mouth. Note that the survey method recorded each bird movement over a

Tasman Lakes Estate Private Plan Change
ECOLOGICAL SURVEY & ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS

one-hour period and some birds will have been recorded more than once during each survey period. The table is therefore an over-estimate of total abundance.

The table shows that 75% of all bird movements along this section of beach were of black backed gulls, variable oystercatchers, white fronted terns and red-billed gulls. White fronted terns were seen in abundance during autumn including a single flock of approximately 165 birds roosting at the stream mouth, but were only seen on one occasion during the October bird survey.

Table 4: Relative Abundance of Birds, Kowhai Stream Mouth

Species	Number of observations	% of Counts	Origin	Threat Status
Gull, black-backed	941	47.1%	N	Not threatened
Oystercatcher, variable	232	11.6%	E	Not threatened
Tern, white fronted tern	171	8.6%	N	5 Gradual decline
Gull, red-billed	153	7.7%	E	Not threatened
Shag, little black	74	3.7%	N	6 Sparse
Starling	65	3.3%	I	-
Spur-winged plover	50	2.5%	C	Not threatened
Still, pied	40	2.0%	N	Not threatened
Shag, little	32	1.6%	E	Not threatened
Swallow	30	1.5%	C	Not threatened
Oystercatcher, pied	26	1.3%	E	Not threatened
Yellowhammer	26	1.3%	I	-
Goldfinch	20	1.0%	I	-
Silvereye	19	1.0%	N	Not threatened
Mallard duck	17	0.9%	I	-
Shag, black	16	0.8%	E	6 Sparse
Skylark	15	0.8%	I	-
Tern, Caspian	9	0.5%	N	3 Nationally vulnerable
Harrier hawk	7	0.4%	N	Not threatened
Grey warbler	6	0.3%	E	Not threatened
Pheasant, ring necked	5	0.3%	I	-
Blackbird	4	0.2%	I	-
Canada goose	4	0.2%	I	-
Eastern rosella *	4	0.2%	I	-
Finch spp.	4	0.2%	I	-
Greenfinch	4	0.2%	I	-
Paradise shelduck	4	0.2%	E	Not threatened
Fantail *	3	0.2%	E	Not threatened
Chaffinch	2	0.1%	I	-
Magpie	2	0.1%	I	-
Pukeko	2	0.1%	N	Not threatened
Sparrow, house	2	0.1%	I	-
Tui *	2	0.1%	E	Not threatened
Dunnock	1	0.1%	I	-
Kingfisher *	1	0.1%	E	Not threatened
Pipit, NZ	1	0.1%	E	Not threatened
Song thrush	1	0.1%	I	-
Shearwater, sooty	1	0.1%	N	5 Gradual decline
Petrel, Westland black *	1	0.1%	E	7 Range restricted
Total bird movements	1,997	100.0%		

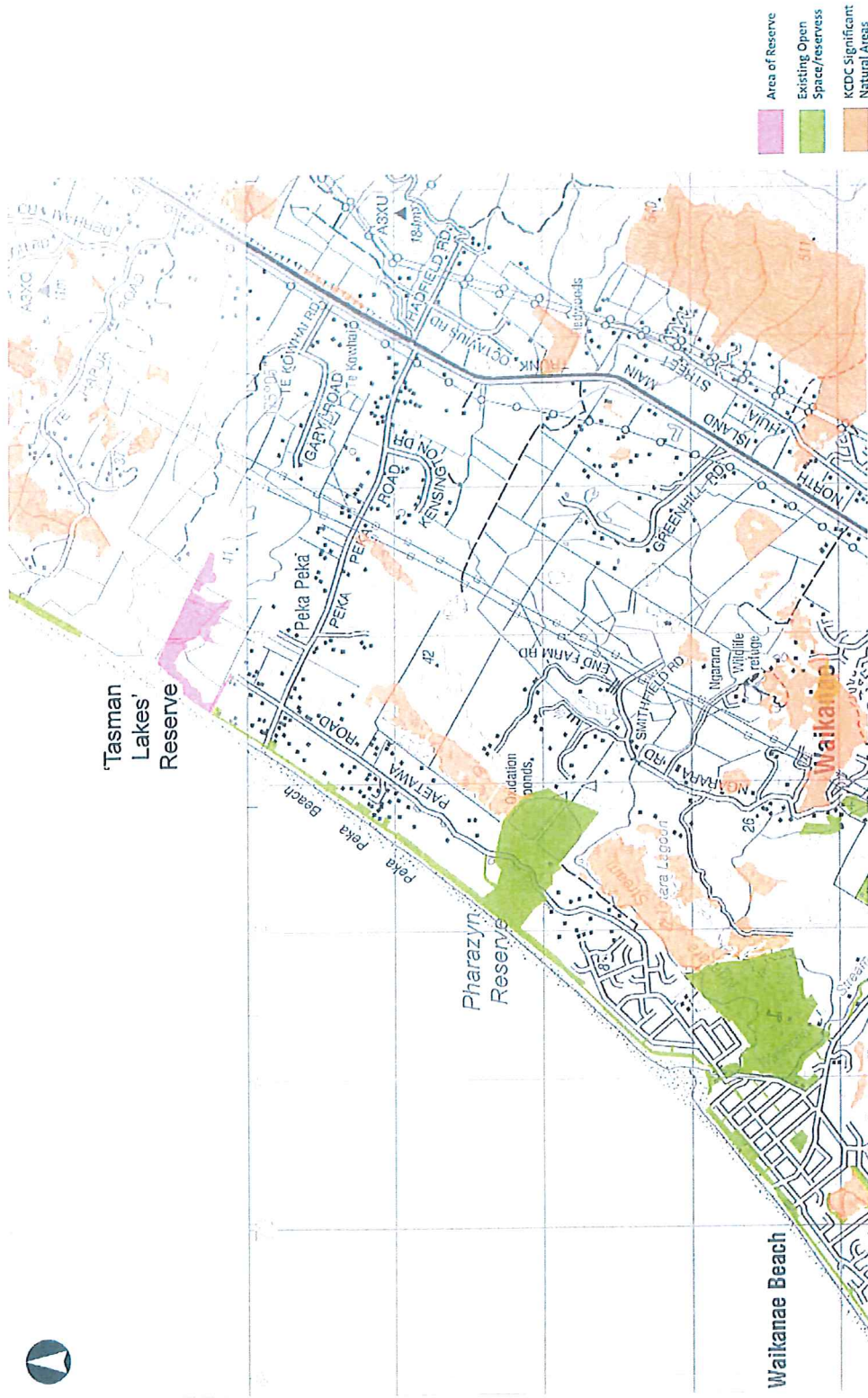
* = These birds were not seen during point counts but were identified during roving searches



Extent of Reserve

Figure 1

'TASMAN LAKES' RESERVE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN
Prepared for Kapiti Coast District Council



Reserve Context
Figure 2

'TASMAN LAKES' RESERVE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared for Kapiti Coast District Council


 Borfa Miskell
 100/103 Tasman Lakes Way, Waikanae, 7100
 Phone: 0438 920000 | Email: info@borfamiskell.co.nz



Reserve Titles
Figure 3

'TASMAN LAKES' RESERVE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared for Kaitiaki Coast District Council



**COMPUTER FREEHOLD REGISTER
UNDER LAND TRANSFER ACT 1952**



Search Copy


R. W. Muir
Registrar-General
of Land

Identifier 517968
Land Registration District Wellington
Date Issued 23 July 2010

Prior References
379583

Estate	Fee Simple
Area	5.9074 hectares more or less
Legal Description	Lot 36 Deposited Plan 430325
Purpose	Recreation Reserve

Proprietors
Kapiti Coast District Council

Interests

Appurtenant hereto are drainage rights created by Transfer 79201 - 3.2.1911 at 11:00 am
769646 Pipeline Certificate over part marked W and X on DP 430325 pursuant to Section 70 of the Petroleum Act 1937 - 23.12.1968 and varied on 17.8.1970 at 9.02 am
Subject to gas pipeline rights (in gross) over part marked X and Y on DP 430325 in favour of Natural Gas Corporation of New Zealand Limited created by Transfer 939244.1 - 9.8.1988 at 12.29 pm
B036580.1 Variation of the conditions of the pipeline easement specified in 769646 - 6.10.1989 at 2.37 pm
Subject to the Reserves Act 1977