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Coastal Reserves Investigation

Featherston County

Planning Team

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Preface

The objective of the Department of Lands and Survey's National Coastal Investigation is the stocktaking of New Zealand's Coastal fringe with a view to protecting a range of values for both preservation and public enjoyment. The first step in the investigation is the undertaking of critical analysis of the coast on a county basis from field observations and extensive research. Consideration has been given to a wide range of natural features, historic associations, likely and possible utilisation and relativity to important features such as urban areas and transport systems.

An inventory of coastal areas is necessary because of the pressures of conflicting interests on the coast. The results of the initial study lead to specific recommendations for reservation of land along the coast to achieve the following aims:

- (a) *To provide public access to and along the coast.*
- (b) *To preserve the quality of the coast for future generations.*
- (c) *To provide a comprehensive system of protection along the coast for public recreation.*
- (d) *To preserve any natural, historical, scenic, scientific or other special features.*
- (e) *To preserve habitat for species of waterfowl, wildlife and marine life.*

Any investigation should recognise the interrelationship between land and water. The ocean is often the major reason for attracting people to the coast, and whether or not directly mentioned in the report, the ocean is therefore an integral part of the coastal resource.

Recreation on the coastal fringe is one of many land uses which has an impact on water quality and fauna and flora. This needs to be taken into account when considering reserve proposals as there may be areas which should be included in reservations or which must be considered as part of an integrated management plan. Similarly, the use of management techniques such as water classification should be related to proposed recreational uses along the coast.

HIGH PRIORITY: * Areas generally of easy access where public use is high or is likely to become high in the near future,
or

* Areas which have a particularly important significance (recreational, cultural or natural) which should be protected because of likely loss to the public for recreation or loss of intrinsic values.

* Areas where subdivision is imminent and the area is in immediate danger of being lost as open space or risk of natural or cultural values being destroyed.

* Areas that are strategic from the point of view of enhancing the values of existing reserves or other opportunities for public recreation.

MEDIUM PRIORITY: Areas having recreational potential or cultural or natural values which are in no imminent danger of being lost through subdivision or other development. These areas would, to a lesser degree, have some of the features of high priority areas.

LOW PRIORITY: Areas which have long term potential for protection and public use but where acquisition is not necessary within the next few years.

While the priority rating indicates the order in which action should be taken by the appropriate level of Government, it does not determine the speed in which action is taken; this depends on other considerations such as the ease or otherwise which the parties involved can reach agreement.

This study is a re-evaluation of the initial Coastal Reserve Investigation completed in 1968. It is prepared within a regional context and is not expected to define final proposal details such as boundary lines and fencing which are negotiated when proposals are under detailed consideration. Any assistance from other government departments, private organisations or individuals was most appreciated. Continued evaluation of the report is needed in order to evolve a workable and satisfactory coastal protection programme.

Introduction

This investigation deals with the physical and, to some degree, the social resources of the coastal lands of Featherston County and examines the values attributed to these areas by the public and private managers. It is accepted that in coastal reserve investigations, district planning schemes under the Town and Country Planning Act 1977 provide an appropriate mechanism for the protection of identified values. This approach is supported by Section 3(1)(c) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1977, which states that the protection of coastal values is a statutory requirement for local authorities.

This report is intended, therefore, to formally document reserve proposals and potential requirements, and to act in an advisory role in general coastal resource planning at the district scheme level. These proposals have been discussed with the Featherston County Council and the majority of them have been implemented by inclusion in the district scheme, which became operative in May 1978.

Featherston County contains a portion of the broad, flat Wairarapa valley flanked by the Rimutaka and Tararua ranges in the west and a large area of hill country including the Aorangi Range to the east. The recent development of coastal recreation and exotic forestry has caused attention to be focused on the eastern uplands and coastline, instead of on the central Wairarapa Valley.

With its fertile soils, the valley provides the basis for an intensive dairy and pastoral farming industry in addition to horticulture and cropping. The small towns of Featherston, Martinborough and Greytown, all located in the valley, provide services to the rural community as well as some agricultural processing and manufacturing. The valley is also served by a number of sealed roads including the main access highways to the Wellington, Manawatu and Hawkes Bay regions.

Parts of the eastern hills and mountains have been developed into large sheep and beef stations with the remainder of the land generally serving a water and soil conservation function. Vegetation consists of mixed scrub and grass with occasional pockets of native bush in the gullies. These areas may offer some recreational hunting and tramping opportunities and wildlife habitats but are increasingly likely to be considered as potential sites for exotic forest plantations. This land use is expanding immediately to the north in the Wairarapa South and Masterton counties under the control of either the New Zealand Forest Service or private,

subsidised forestry schemes. It would be generally undesirable for these plantations to infringe on the coastal setting. A coastal zone might exclude commercial forestry without restricting planting for shade and shelter, which is a traditional practice at homesteads, and it may be necessary to enhance several existing or proposed reserve areas.

The New Zealand Forest Service administers the Rimutaka and Haurangi State Forest Parks. These have a soil and water conservation function which is being achieved through the maintenance and regeneration of native bush in association with some exotic timber production. Recreation uses, such as tramping, camping and hunting are also being promoted. Both parks extend to the coast.

That some of the largest and oldest stations have their original homesteads and present headquarters on the fertile, narrow coastal flats of the Pacific Coast is another key factor in the management of the eastern hills. This traditional settlement pattern will greatly affect recreational use patterns and has potential for generating conflicts of interest. The same problems do not exist in the Cape Palliser and Palliser Bay areas, as no large station houses survived along the coastal flats and many were located inland for wind protection.

The old saying, "the Wairarapa exports primary produce and young people" holds true for Featherston County. The outward migration of younger age groups has meant that the county's population has remained static for several decades. The major population growth in the region has occurred in Masterton Borough north of the county. However, Featherston and Greytown Boroughs have developed a dormitory role, because of the large population growth in the Wellington region, especially the Hutt Valley on the other side of the Rimutaka Range. This trend is likely to stabilise in the near future as travel and housing costs increase in the Wairarapa. The static population figures in the county indicate that demand for outdoor recreation on the coast from residents will probably not increase markedly, and that increased demands will come mainly from the Wellington region. However, increased leisure time, affluence and mobility (due to related increases in car ownership and general improvements in roading) will cause increases in recreational demand not related to population growth or location.

This recreational demand reflects an increasing desire to visit isolated wilderness areas such as rugged coastlines. Featherston County possesses this recreational resource and the demand for these qualities has led to the growth of six bach settlements in Palliser Bay, which is the most accessible area. This apparent paradox in terms of the recreational value of isolation, is discussed later in this report.

Access and land ownership are two factors that significantly affect recreational use in the county. As is usual, access is closely associated with farming. The road around Cape Palliser also services the fishing village of Ngawihi and the Cape Palliser lighthouse. More than half the coastline of the county is European freehold or Maori land but some key areas for recreation are already in public ownership. Provision of public walking access would satisfy most recreational needs on privately owned land; this does not necessarily require acquisition of land and could in most cases be satisfied with an easement for a right of way.

Related to issues of access and ownership, are the historical values attributed to the county by a relatively short European occupation and an obscure but extensive Maori history. These values (especially those Maori) are particularly important along the coastline as it was obviously an early access route for both races. There are hundreds of identifiable Maori occupation sites along the coast. Some may be worth special reservation in public ownership, either to provide the public with examples of various types of early Maori habitations and the pattern of agriculture, or for the management of particularly important sites.

For the purposes of this investigation only, the county is divided into two zones. The first zone covers the coastal lands from the western boundary of the county to Waiarakeke Stream which is on the Pacific coast of Cape Palliser just north of Te Rakauwhakamataku Point. It includes virtually all of Palliser Bay, except that portion in Hutt County and Cape Palliser. (Map 2) The second zone runs from Waiarakeke Stream north to Waihingaita Stream, the county boundary with Wairarapa South County. The inland and seaward boundaries of the zones are fairly arbitrary, being generally the skyline visible from the beach and as far out to sea as the visible reefs. (Map 3)

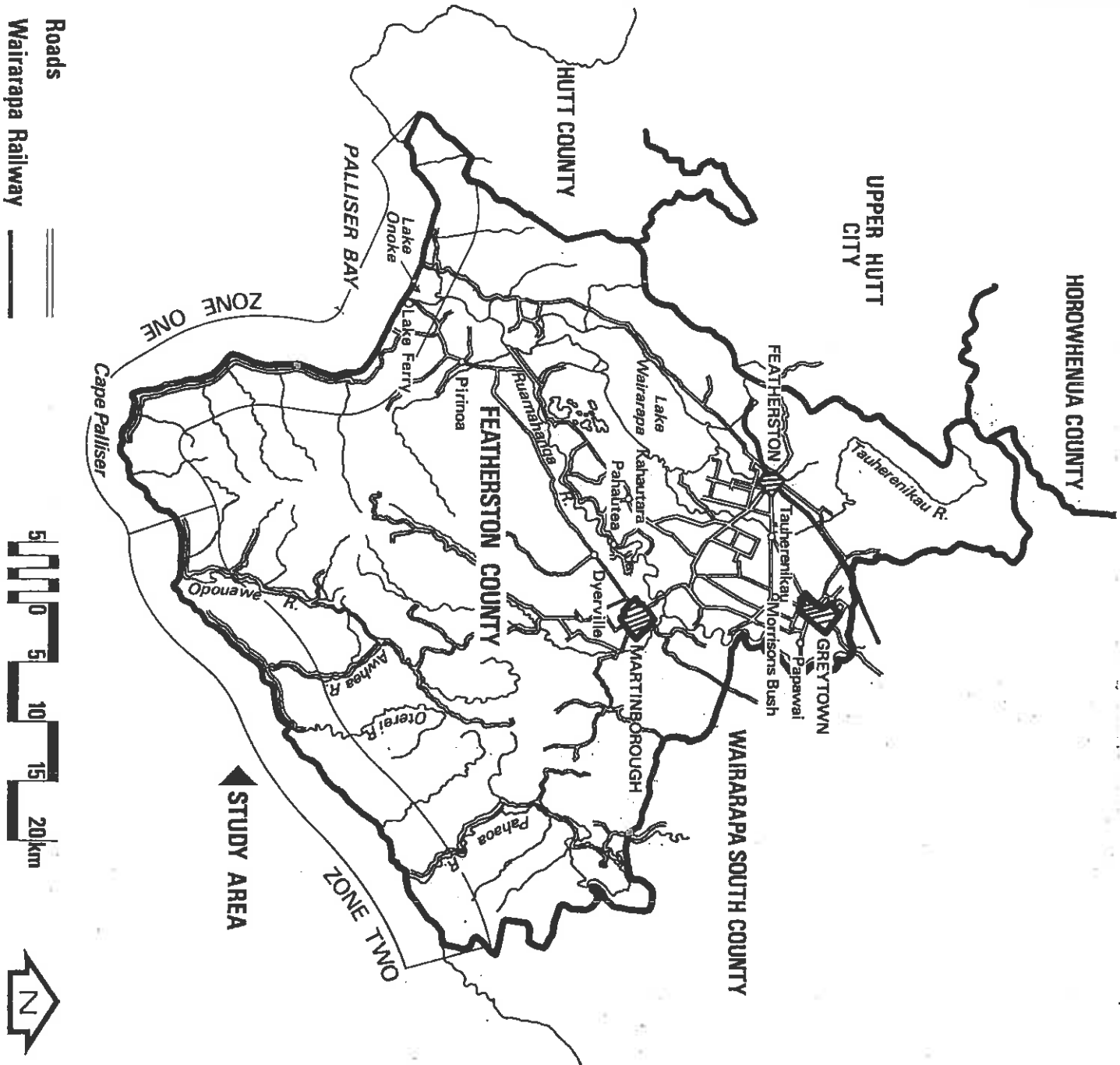
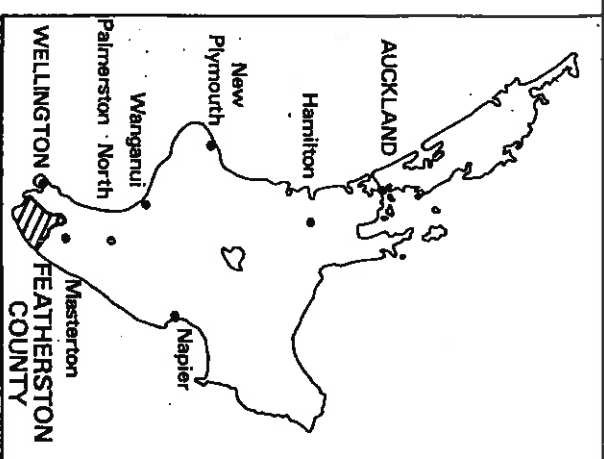
The coastline of Featherston County is the longest in the Wellington Land District, covering 124 kilometres and can be divided into the following sections on the basis of topography, tenure and development:

2 km of developed beach	32 km of public land (largely thin strips and State Forest)
25 km of undeveloped beach	78 km of private land
97 km of rock and cliff	14 km of Maori land
<u>124 km total</u>	<u>124 km total</u>

Map 1

COASTAL RESERVE SURVEY

FEATHERSTON COUNTY LOCALITY

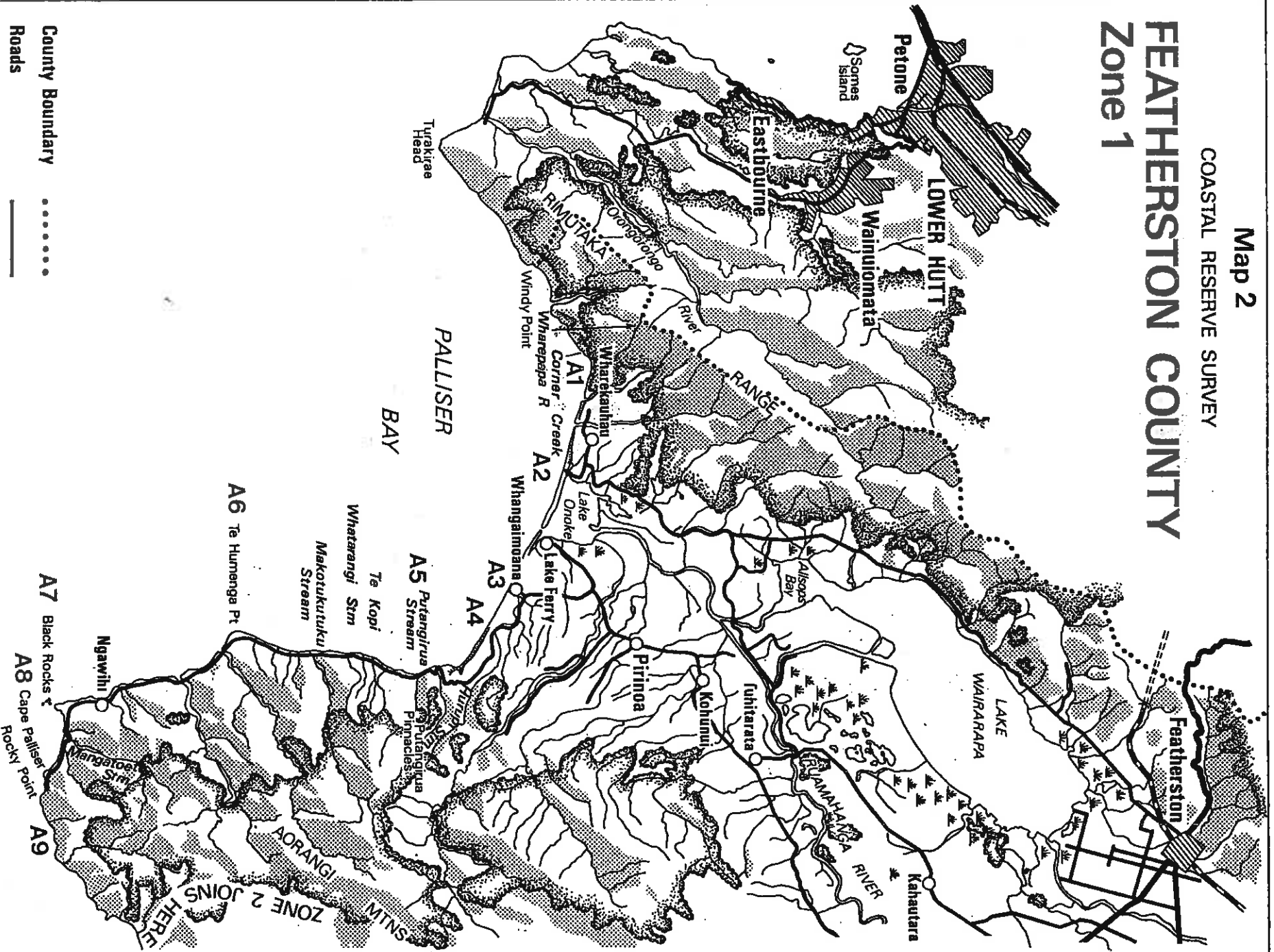


Roads
Wairarapa Railway

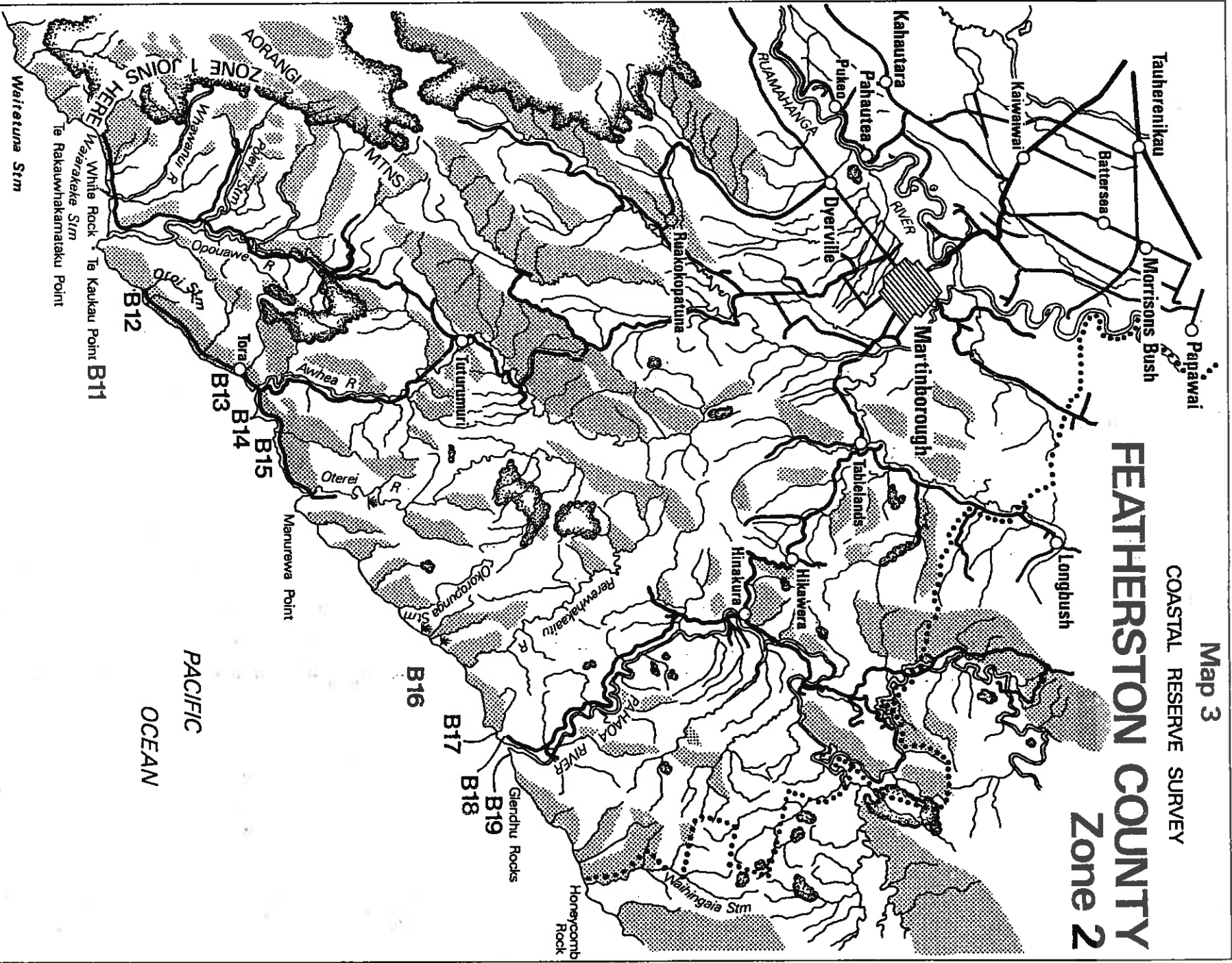


Map 2
COASTAL RESERVE SURVEY

FEATHERSTON COUNTY Zone 1



FEATHERSTON COUNTY Zone 2



- County Boundary ······
- Roads ————
- Bush [Symbol]
- Swamp [Symbol]



Part I: THE LAND

(a) GEOLOGY AND PHYSIOGRAPHY

The physiography of Featherston County coastal lands shows great variety and this is a reflection of the variable geology along this stretch of coast. The strata range in age from Mesozoic greywackes and argillites to the recent foreshore deposits. Mesozoic rocks form the basement underlying all the surface strata and crop out as three major fault-bounded blocks: the Rimutaka Range, Aorangi Mountains and the coastal range from just north of the Awhea River to the Pahaoa River. Between the Rimutaka Range and the Aorangi Mountains lies the Masterton - Lower Wairarapa fault-angle depression, the surface rocks of which are largely of Quaternary age.

This pattern is further complicated by a series of NE - SW trending faults, between which are wedged slivers of younger Tertiary rocks.

The basic geological patterns of the coastal lands emerge from an inspection of the cross-section of the county shown on the Geological Map (Map 4) and marked A-B. In the extreme west of zone 1, the Rimutaka Range drops quite abruptly into Cook Strait except for a few hundred metres of raised beaches and gravel fans. These raised beaches are scientifically interesting as they show six distinct periods of tectonic activity and coastal re-vegetation sequences.

A reserve near Turakirae Head, a few kilometres south west of the county boundary, was set aside to preserve a section of these raised beaches from exploitation. The Rimutaka Range rises behind the beaches and gravel fans, and is of upper Jurassic greywacke sandstones and argillites, the oldest rocks of the region. West of Lake Onoke the terrain is composed of a high marine terrace cut in Wanganui Series gravels, sands and silts which has been severely eroded by water runoff. This terrace is heavily dissected and the eroded material is being deposited at the sea to form either large gravel fans or a broad gravel beach backed by broken 30 metre cliffs. This marine terrace was formed during the Pleistocene Hawera Series some 250,000 years ago. The terrace surface occurs again east of Lake Onoke.

Gravel fans and gully erosion are not as widespread or advanced on this terrace. The line of bluffs quickly gives way to older rocks of the Taranaki Series. This formation confronts the sea as large eroding cliffs averaging 100 metres high with only a small wave-cut beach at the base. The strata are composed of thick beds of calcareous, blue grey sandy siltstone and are prone to water erosion, the results of which can be seen at the Pinnacles Scenic

Reserve some kilometres inland. These rocks are only exposed as a very thin band along the coast, and are capped in places by the older marine terrace remnants which correlate with those on the western side of Lake Onoke. Near the Haurangi Forest Park Headquarters, a small raised beach foreshore has been formed. Eroded material from the old terraces has been deposited on this. Rocks of the Taranaki Series end just north of the Makotukutuku Stream but outcrop again in small sections at two other localities. The first is just northwest of Cape Palliser and the other is slightly inland and west of White Rock point. In the former case the strata are exposed to heavy seas which have eroded cave complexes creating a spectacular feature in storm conditions.

The coast between the sandy siltstone cliffs is principally made up of the base rock of the Aorangi Mountains: that is, Lower Cretaceous sandstone with thick sequences of muddy siltstone and conglomerate bands.

Remnants of the older Hawera terrace formations lie between the road and the skyline, while seaward the raised beach deposits occur. Evidence of the Hawera terrace disappears near Cape Palliser and does not appear again along the east coast.

In the small stretch of coastline between Cape Palliser and Waiarakeke Stream the Lower Cretaceous sandstones outcrop where the Aorangi Mountains drop abruptly into the eastern end of Cook Strait. Some small raised beaches have been formed in this area but are largely obscured by large gravel fans.

The main features of this zone (that is, the terraces, rockfans, small coastal strip and the cliffs) serve to distinguish Zone 1 from Zone 2.

In Zone 2 a series of upper Mesozoic and Tertiary rocks are exposed at the surface. These rocks begin very near Waiarakeke Stream, the boundary between the zones, where the Taranaki Series sandy siltstone again outcrops. They continue all along the coast in a series of fault bounded slivers of various formations of different ages, and lithologies, with mudrocks predominating. Wherever an erosion resistant rock type occurs along the coastline a point or rocky reef is formed. Examples include Te Kaukau Point, White Rock, Manurewa Point and Kairingaranga Reef.

Inland, most of these strata are exposed as rolling to steep hills which lie parallel to the coast and are broken only by large rivers.

However, most of the east coast hills are protected from sea erosion by large flats, which were formed by marine erosion. These flats have been developed for pasture, but also offer potential recreational opportunities and enable access along the east coast. On average these flats are 500 metres wide, but vary in width from a few metres to 1500 metres.

The rocky headlands are points of scenic interaction of water and land and also provide shelter for recreationists and commercial cray fishermen. Both the flats and the rocky headlands commonly contain important historic Maori sites.

The physical nature of the coast in Zone 1 generally restricts many agricultural uses and forestry, except where this can provide shelter or prevent erosion. However, Zone 2 contains a series of important coastal flats which can be used for either agriculture and/or recreational purposes. There may, therefore, be land use conflicts in Zone 2, but since recreational demand in this zone is minimal compared to Zone 1, these conflicts should also be minimal.

Zone 2 also includes several rivermouths. These provide breaks in the coastal flats and are focal points for roads from the Wairarapa, but can act as barriers to access along the coast. There are many historic Maori habitation sites and present day Maori reserves near these rivermouths. These rivermouths also provide an environment in which wildlife and marine life flourish. They also provide many recreational opportunities including whitebaiting, fishing and birdwatching and offer safe swimming places that are not available off the seashore. The Pahaoa River may be deep enough and sufficiently free from debris to allow jet boating or scenic canoe trips.

The recreational, scenic, cultural and natural values of these estuaries mean additional reserves will be proposed at major river mouths. These will be designed principally to remove development problems and protect the environments. The same result could be achieved by instigating a protective zone in the District Planning Scheme (this is discussed in Section (g) under the heading 'Existing Reserves and the District Scheme').

The entire coastline has been subject to intensive faulting and folding, and active faults are still in evidence at Wharepapa Stream, (West Wairarapa Fault) near Cape Palliser, at White Rocks and at the mouth of the Pahaoa River. There are many other faults along the coast which are not currently active. These fault lines generally follow the trend of the various folded strata in a NE - SW direction and continue offshore.

This section has provided information on the physical nature of the coast, to help explain the development of recreational patterns. A wider understanding of the natural processes along the coastal fringe also facilitates the understanding of other activities and land uses, so that future planning can at least be comprehensive.

(b) SOILS AND CLIMATE

(i) The soils of the coastal areas of Featherston County are made up of central yellow-grey earths or central yellow-brown earths or intergrades between the two. Yellow-grey earths develop in areas with a well defined dry season and an annual rainfall of less than 1150 mm distributed over fewer than 150 rain days. They are derived mainly from lightly consolidated alluvial, marine or wind blown sediments, but a few types are formed on older sedimentary rocks particularly in Zone 2. The lower valley soils of Zone 1 are generally fertile silt loams over compacted clay loams derived from siltstone. The yellow-grey earths along the Zone 2 coastline are shallow fertile soils that drain freely, and dry out in summer. The slopes are apt to slip badly because of water entering shrinkage cracks opened up in dry weather. Gullies may develop on surfaces exposed by slipping.

Yellow-brown earths differ from the yellow-grey earths in that they are formed under forest cover and an annual rainfall in excess of 1150 mm. They change in character primarily with altitude, amount of rainfall, and vegetation type.

Because they are formed in high rainfall areas they are susceptible to many types of erosion particularly if the forest cover has been removed. Although more fertile soils can be used for pastoral farming, in general they are better suited to either exotic afforestation or retention of indigenous vegetation for water and soil conservation

The central valley area of Zone 1 contains the most complex soil intergrades while the rest of Zone 1 is made up of steepland soils of yellow-brown earths and differ only in their parent materials. Zone 2 is comprised mostly of steepland soils of the central yellow-grey earths, based on various mudstone parent materials.

The coastal soils of Zone 2 are mainly Whareama-Wanstead Steepland Soils, while the steepland soils of Zone 1 are Ruahine-Rimutaka Steepland Soils from the western county boundary to the western edge of the Wairarapa valley, and Pohangina-Tangoio Soils from the eastern

side of the valley to the Makotukutuku Stream. The parent material of the Ruahine soils is greywacke and that of the Pohangina soil is limestone. The rest of Zone 1 around Cape Palliser to Waiarakeke Stream is comprised of mainly Makara-Pahaoa Steepland Soil, which is based on greywacke and, like the other Zone 1 steepland soils, is a yellow-brown earth.

The lower valley soils are yellow-brown earths or intergrades between yellow-grey earths and yellow-brown earths. They are a mixture of soils of river terraces or fans, and soils of the undulating, rolling and hilly land. The immediate foreshore of this county and the rest of Zone 1 is generally gravel beach. In Zone 2 the coastal flats have soils evolved from fertile alluvial deposits which have been developed into pasture virtually to the water's edge. This pasture development is the basis of a land use pattern with potential for conflict with recreational development beyond a passive nature and low intensity.

The soils are generally shallow and have a brown topsoil and a shallow yellow-brown subsoil over weathering rock. Small pieces of weathered rock are common throughout the profile. The soils are friable and free draining, with their nutrient content depending on the parent rock. In the Featherston coastal lands this means the yellow-brown soils of the Rimutaka area derived from volcanic ash and greywacke are low in nutrients; Palliser Bay soils, derived from greywacke, are moderately fertile; and the soils of the east coast of Zone 2, derived from mudstone are high in nutrients.

(ii) The Climate of the coastal areas of Featherston County is not well documented. There are no meteorological stations along the Wairarapa Coast and only a few inland, although Cape Palliser and Castlepoint lighthouses provide some data. The stations at Ngaumu and Waingawa upon which the following general data is based are not in Featherston County. For this reason and because the physiography of the county is so varied, this information is only broadly indicative.

New Zealand Meteorological Service rainfall data for the period 1921-1950 shows that the Rimutaka and Aorangi Mountains receive the highest rainfall and this correlates with soil information. A narrow strip around Cape Palliser receives less than 1150 mm of rainfall a year. The entire county coastline receives less rainfall than inland areas, and

there is a summer low, factors which are conducive to outdoor recreational activities.

Temperatures experienced on the coast are likely to be more moderate than those recorded inland, because of the maritime influences: this means that the frosts recorded at inland stations are unlikely to be experienced along the coast. The dominant winds are from the north-north west in summer, but the most severe storms and dominant winter winds are from the south-south east. These strong southerlies sweep Palliser Bay and the Cape causing extremely rough sea conditions. These winds are supplemented by the diurnal seashore breezes which can also be quite marked. The combination of frequent strong gales and the generally rocky shore precludes many water-based activities (although swimming appears to be an exception), and severely restricts commercial fishing. All boating activities are limited because there are no safe anchorages along the entire coast of the county, nor any public boat-launching sites.

It is likely that the coastal areas generally receive about 2000 hours of sunshine, which is average for New Zealand, and the majority of sunshine hours probably occur during the summer season.

In summary, the coastline has less rainfall than inland areas, with a summer deficiency, and average sunshine hours. The winters are moderated by oceanic influences so there are few frosts, but summer temperatures are also more moderate than those inland. The cyclonic winds, coupled with normal diurnal sea winds, make the coastal waters very rough and restrict many water-based recreational activities, particularly boating. Boating is further restricted by the rocky nature of the coastline and hidden reefs. The wrecks of ships at two locations and the monument to the crew of another serve as reminders of the treacherous nature of these waters.

(c) AGRICULTURE

The physical nature of the country, the types of soil and the climate, mean that agriculture is limited to extensive pastoral farming for most of this coastline. The only exception to this is the fertile flat lands of the valley area in Zone 1.

Some poorer agricultural land above the coastal escarpment and the western part of Zone 1 has been grazed until recently, but now forms part of the State Forest Park. Some coastal blocks of land, either in Maori or Crown

ownership, are presently leased for grazing.

However, in Zone 2 a totally different pattern emerges. The coastal flats, although generally narrow, are more fertile than most of the adjacent hills, less subject to erosion, and can sustain road systems and buildings. Therefore, virtually all station houses and other buildings are located on the coastal flats and form the focus of farming activities. There are obviously other factors, besides the easy contour, that attracted the settlers to build on the coast and these are discussed in Section (F).

However, these same factors mean that any reserve proposals which involve key areas on the flats (for example, station buildings or homesteads, springs or areas of shade) must, therefore, be carefully researched before any proposals are made. A reserve will have to be of considerable importance to warrant the acquisition of any 'key' areas.

In both Zone 1 and Zone 2 public access should be sought so that special features, such as tree groves, historic sites, rocky headlands or prominent land marks and important wildlife areas which should be reserved can be linked for public recreation.

(d) FORESTRY

Over the past two decades forestry in Featherston County has been slowly growing. The establishment of the Haurangi State Forest Park is the most recent venture by the New Zealand Forest Service. The park covers large inland areas of the Aorangi Range and some coastal areas of the Palliser Peninsula reaching the coastline itself east of Cape Palliser near Te Rakauwhakamatapu Point and near Mangatoetoe Stream. After arriving, by vehicle, at the coastal entry point, access into the forest park is by foot. A four wheel drive vehicle is not necessary to get to this access point. The main body of the park is in the inland mountains where the forest plays an important water and soil conservation role, and this is being achieved by the preservation and regeneration of indigenous species.

The New Zealand Forest Service has management plans prepared for both Rimutaka and Haurangi State Forest Parks. For both parks the primary management objective is the protection of soil and water values by protecting, conserving and enhancing the vegetative cover of the parks. Other objectives include conservation of the aesthetic, scenic, historical, scientific and cultural values of the forest parks and development the recreational potential to complement other recreational resources of the region.

The Forest Service recognises the need to retain natural coastal landscape values where State Forest reaches the coast or is visible from public roads. The planting of exotic tree species only occurs in Haurangi State Forest Park in parts of the Turanganui River catchment and has been suggested in the ex-Pinnacles Farm Settlement for soil conservation purposes.

An analysis of the vegetation is given in Section (e) with recommendations to preserve certain native bush or coastal vegetation remnants in Part III.

(e) FLORA AND FAUNA

The flora found along the coastline includes marram grass, lupin, ice plant and tawhine, with clumps of native coastal trees, karaka, kanuka, taupata, cabbage trees and korokio. Many areas of the coastline are simply exposed rock and shingle or sand beaches nearest the ocean, while inland exotic grasses with occasional patches of trees and shrubs cover the plains and hills. The remnants of native bush occur mainly at the base of the hills where small streams flow down through steep gorges. Some of these bush remnants could make good recreation areas, providing shade and protection from the wind, and they are often associated with a ready supply of fresh water (e.g. Dick's Gully).

There are two exceptions to this general coastal pattern: first is the area east of Cape Palliser lighthouse and the second consists of the areas on the west coast of Palliser Bay near Corner Creek. The Cape Palliser area is extensively used for informal camping and offers a wide range of native shrubs and bush which grow almost down to the water's edge. This is the only remnant of coastal vegetation at Cape Palliser and it only survived because the land has not been developed during the past 100 years. This patch of vegetation is not only the sole remaining stand of native bush at Cape Palliser but also includes species which are rare in the southern coastal section of the North Island. It is proposed (see proposal A9) that this area be protected in order to preserve the natural vegetative

cover. Protection would not exclude camping, although formal management controls would be needed because the lack of fire controls and refuse collection have resulted in adverse environmental impacts.

The other significant area of vegetation is within the Rimutaka Forest Park and, as such, is managed for compatible recreational activities. There are New Zealand Forest Service plans for the provision of picnic and camp sites. This area has some unauthorised baches which are to be removed.

Although the Fauna of the coastal areas of Featherston County is not well documented, possum, deer and wild pig are known to be present in both forest parks and the hill country of the Pacific East Coast stations. They are also probably found on the coastal flats, particularly around Cape Palliser. Larger numbers of hares and rabbits would be found along the coastal areas, although there is an active rabbit control programme.

Very little information is available about the birds which live along the Featherston County coastal area of the inland parts of the county. However, most common native and introduced birds are probably present. These include the waxeye, magpie, fantail, grey warbler, hawks, gulls, terns and hedge-sparrow.

The coastal strip is probably the most healthy remaining habitat for the common pipit. Birds such as the reef heron and oyster catcher which have been recorded at Castlepoint have also been observed on the Featherston coastline, and fossil remains of the rare kapapo have been found along the southeast Wairarapa Coast. There are also a number of breeding areas for red-billed gulls, and stilts are known to be present at various localities.

Lake Onoke area is the only area in which the Wildlife Service, Department of Internal Affairs, has expressed a direct interest. It recommends protection over the lake and its shores for the management of wildlife values.

Lake Onoke is used extensively by large numbers of birds of various species for feeding and refuge. These uses could be curtailed, or eliminated, by excessive recreational pressures, or by some forms of development which would destroy marginal vegetation or prevent feeding by some bird species through increased water levels.

(5) HISTORY AND ACCESS

Human occupation of Featherston County dates back to early Maori times hundreds of years before European exploration of the area. The coastal historic sites, of which hundreds have been identified, present a puzzle to archaeologists and historians, because many consist of stone walls marking garden sites of the type used for kumara growing. However, in the present climate it is unlikely that kumaras could be grown along this coast.

All archaeological sites identified or known along the Featherston Coast are protected under the Historic Places Act 1980. Particular sites may warrant reservation for protection and public access. Any historic site within a specific proposal should be accorded appropriate protection in the management plan for the reserve.

The history of European settlement on this coast is more recent and began in the 1850's, although several ships were lost along the county coastline before this time. There have been numerous shipwrecks along this stretch of coast, particularly around rocky promontories. Notable localities include:

- Whangaimoana Beach* - (proposal A3). 'Shamrock' wrecked 1861.
- Zuleika Monument* - (A7) 'Zuleika' (1897) twelve lives lost.
- Beach Rocks* - (A8) 'Waitaki' (1887), 'Sinen' (1945) two lives lost, 'Pausubre' (1972).
- Cape Palliser* - (A9) 'Pickwick' (1845), two lives lost, 'Ben Avon (1903), 'Quest' (1975).
- Te Kau Kau Point* - (B12) 'Lizzie Guy' (1888), two lives lost, 'Delmina' (1896).

There have been many other vessels lost around the county coastline particularly in Palliser Bay.

The site of the wreck of any ship or boat which occurred more than 100 years ago (of which there are 19 recorded around the county coastline) is protected under the Historic Places Act 1980.

Some of the present farm homesteads are located at the sites of original habitations and some of the present owners are direct descendants of the first settlers, including the Riddifords at Te Awaiti Station and the Camerons at Pahaoa and Glendhu Stations. These homesteads are an integral part of the history of the Wairarapa and any original buildings should be recorded and preserved if possible.

The history of many of these stations is recorded in A.G. Bagnall's book "Wairarapa, An Historical Excursion" (1976). In this book, old maps of the coast show the original station boundaries and the text refers to the leasing or purchase of the land from the Maoris.

Apart from the original homesteads themselves, there are interesting historic sites at the Pahaoa, Opuawe, and Ruamahanga Rivers where ferrymen were stationed. There are also several interesting records of travellers' journeys through this area. The coastal flats were the original highway for all travellers and stock moving between Wellington and Hawkes Bay, or the central Wairarapa Valley and the coast, and as such set a historical precedent for freedom of access along this coastline. It is a policy of the Department of Lands and Survey to restore this right of access. Mr J. Henderson (a former Chief Surveyor of the Department of Lands and Survey), researched the history of coastal reserves and values along Featherston County. He writes:

"Wairarapa South Coastal land lies in a zone that was intended to have public access along its entire length and ownership was not to extend within 100 feet (30 metres) of the mean high water mark. This principle of a 100 feet was set down in the Ordinances of the Legislative Council 1841-53, Ordinance No. 7602, Section 6 which further excluded by name, headlands, promontories, bays or islands from grants.

Further to the Ordinances of 1841-53 and when the present section of coast was offered for selection (NZ Government Gazette of 7.2.1854), it was clear that the intention was to establish reserves and a public right of way '... and further reserves the right of making such public reserves, as may be found necessary, in any part

of the districts now ratified for selection ... and a travel reserve along the coast throughout the distance, from 10 to 20 chains wide, as the same may be determined'."

This right of way for stock was assumed and exercised until comparatively recently.

It is, however, obvious that since the bays, promontories and headlands were not set aside for reserves and definition of the accessway was not followed through, these original rights were lost. This investigation seeks to rectify some of these mistakes and it is noted that Section 289 of the Local Government Amendment Act 1978 to some extent continues the philosophy of public access along the coast.

Vehicle access to and along the entire coast can now be achieved by four wheel drive vehicles though some sections and rivers would be difficult to cross depending on the season and the tide. Private cars can, however, reach many places on the coast. The west side of Palliser Bay and Lake Onoke are accessible by car, as is the eastern side of the lake but the road around the lake goes several kilometres inland. Roads are generally sealed except for those nearest the bay and the lake, with the Lake Ferry Road being sealed right to the river mouth. The next access point to the east is a metal road ending at Whangaimoana Beach some 3 km east of Lake Ferry.

The route travelling east from the Whangaimoana Road, inland from the beach, is the Whatarangi Road which is mostly metalled with some sealed stretches, major bridges and small fords. This road runs inland for several kilometres and parallel to the coast around a section of cliffs, returning to the foreshore near the Hurupi Stream. It continues from here very close to the foreshore all the way to Cape Palliser Lighthouse from where a four wheel drive vehicle is required to drive any further. The only problems on this road are during very heavy seas, after heavy rains (causing slips near Whatarangi Stream) and the ford through the Mangatoetoe Stream when it is in flood. This is a scenic stretch of road and over the years it has been upgraded and re-routed to keep it free from high seas and, in doing so, it has moved well off the original road line. The coast is generally being eroded at the present time.

The three roads providing access to the Pacific east coast were probably built to service the stations. These are, from south to north, the White Rock Road, the Tora Road and the Pahaoa Road. These roads end at White Rock Station, Te Oroi and Te Awaiti Stations and Pahaoa Station respectively but now service other farms as well. The roads are metalled and well formed and, except for the Pahaoa Road, run along the coast for several kilometres.

Combined, these public roads allow good vehicular access to the entire Featherston County coastline. Reserves may well be needed in the future where the roads meet the coastline to accommodate people seeking both active and passive recreation. Such reserves would ideally be combined with other features including headlands and rivermouths to facilitate maximum interest, enjoyment and shelter to the reserve users as well as keeping them away from agriculturally and socially important areas of the stations.

(g) EXISTING RESERVES AND THE DISTRICT SCHEME

The Featherston County Approved District Scheme (Operative from 1 May 1978) contains proposals for reserve designations including proposed reservation of: the foreshore along the entire coastline; several headlands and promontories including Manurewa Point, Te Humenga Point and White Rock; and several estuaries or areas between streams including land at Whangaimoana, Hurupi Stream, Awhea River, Oroi Stream and Waitetuna Stream.

The proposed reserve as designated in the council's scheme is one approach used to protect the coastal environment as required by Section3(1)(c) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1977. Designation ensures that the present use of the land is not markedly changed without the designating authority being aware of the intended change. An alternative but supporting method would be to create a coastal zone without directly acquiring the land. This zone could also be used to ensure that multiple uses are established, based on criteria regarding performance standards for activities which are, by definition, mutually compatible: for example, historic sites would be protected and extensive grazing would continue.

Each existing reserve or proposed reserve is looked at in Part III and recommendations are made regarding development. In most cases, there are only minor proposals made for the reserve being investigated so as to meet projected needs and recreational demands.

Part 2: THE OCEAN

(a) MARINE GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

There is a lack of data relating to the geology and nature of the seabed off Featherston County. However, the information available enables the interpretation of the effects of offshore phenomena like currents and eddies on fishing opportunities and water-based recreational activities.

The base rocks which form the seabed off Featherston County are largely similar to the Mesozoic rocks that comprise the Rimutaka Range and Aorangi Mountains and underlie the Wairarapa Valley sediments. These rocks have undergone considerable faulting and folding on the continental slope.

Tectonic activity in the past gave rise to the formation of the mountain and hill ranges on the land surface, and the seaward extensions of the major structures are also reflected in the bathymetry (i.e., sea-bottom contours).

The seabed of Zone 1 includes the drowned extension of the lower Wairarapa Valley. Sediment brought down by the Ruamahanga River is continually being deposited in this area. During glacial times, large quantities of sediment were deposited on the seabed at Palliser Bay which, as the ocean level rose, gave rise to the formation of a large plateau beneath the sea. The seabed therefore, slopes gently to a depth of about 70 fathoms and then drops abruptly into the Cook Strait Canyon. Near the western and eastern shores of Palliser Bay two small canyons branch off the Cook Strait Canyon towards the shore, reaching depths of 300 fathoms.

In Zone 2 the nature of the seabed is radically different. North of Cape Palliser the continental shelf narrows to 5 kilometres opposite the mouth of the Opuawe River. The gradient of the continental slope in this zone is very steep, and drops steadily into the deep waters of the Hikurangi Trench. The slope is broken by the Opuawe and Pahaoa Canyons and the Honeycomb Canyon complex which reach depths of 500 fathoms within a few kilometres of the shore.

The seabed closer to the shore has been generally levelled by ocean currents, chemical action and deposition of river sediment, leaving rounded bank formations. The Kaukau Bank lying off Te Kaukau Point is the only major bank formation.

Exposed and submerged reefs and promontories formed by more resistant rocks are found off the Zone 2 shoreline, but there are only two examples along Zone 1, at Cape Palliser and Black Rocks. These rocks are a serious danger to recreational and commercial boating, as mentioned earlier, and the continual loss of small fishing and pleasure craft requires the maintenance of the lighthouse at Cape Palliser to warn shipping of these dangers.

The occurrence of sand, gravel and mud deposits on the seabed around these rocks and reefs indicate continued marine erosion. Water-borne river deposits are sorted and deposited according to their weight - the heaviest particles of sand being deposited close inshore and the finer mud particles being carried further out to sea. The seabed therefore, changes from coarse sand to a mixture of fine sand and mud, and finally to mud. This pattern is similar around the submerged banks where erosion is taking place.

(b) OCEAN CLASSIFICATION, CHARACTER AND QUALITY

The "character" of the ocean is determined by the composite physical features of the coastal area. In Featherston County, the rugged land features (high coastal hills and rocky shoreline), rough seas and the isolated and undeveloped nature of the coast are the prime factors which give it its rugged nature and atmosphere of solitude.

The 'character' of the coast determines what types of recreational activities may take place here, (discussed further in Section (d)) and also dictate what reserve planning proposals should strive to facilitate. The major criteria for reserve planning will be the protection of the natural character of these areas, and any proposal or use which will alter or destroy these identifiable values should be discouraged.

Classification and Quality - the ocean adjacent to the county is not subject to intensive use. Under the Water and Soil Conservation Act 1967 sea water may be classified and any classification which may be applied to part or all of this portion of the coast needs to be related to the existing natural quality after balancing relevant considerations of existing discharges and existing or planned future land and water uses.

(c) MARINE FLORA AND FAUNA

The sea birds of the county are described in Section (e) of Part I.

Paua, mussels, crayfish, groper, butterfish and blue cod occur in sufficient numbers for both recreational and commercial fishing.

About 20 commercial fishermen live along the coast of the county and concentrate on crayfishing, which provides a large proportion of their income. The rough weather and lack of shelter along the coast make this fishing seasonal, however, some larger boats are being used and these are specially designed for rough weather and crayfishing. A major crayfish export processing plant is based at Ngawihi which is a permanent fishing settlement.

A number of cray fishermen have bachs along the coast although some only maintain a boat, launching place and other equipment. These launching areas and bachs are usually located in sheltered bays, river mouths and on the sheltered side of rocky points.

These sites are also used by the public for recreation, and there may be certain conflicts of values over the visual intrusion the bachs and equipment have on the natural environment in these localities. However, these fishermen may provide potential recreational opportunities for the public for sightseeing or fishing trips, and they also have more experience and knowledge of the sea in these parts.

Although piecemeal expansion of these bach sites would be undesirable, as most are poorly sited or do not conform to building standards, the existing bachs used by fishermen do provide a human element along the sparsely inhabited coastline. In Palliser Bay, the county council has been promoting the concentration of development in certain settlements to control the proliferation of bachs along the coast, This policy has worked well at the Ngawihi Settlement near Cape Palliser.

The rocky inshore areas of the Featherston coast provide a stable environment and diverse habitats for a wide variety of marine life; more so than those bordering sandy foreshores. However, some populations, notably the paua, have been depleted by fishing. The paua fisheries were over exploited all

along the Wairarapa coast approximately nine years ago. Puna take seven years to reach the minimum collection size (12.7 cm) and these beds may soon experience pressures of over-exploitation again. The elimination or depletion of one species can upset the balance of related habitats and food cycles, and hence the entire ecosystem must be afforded protection. Pollution, for instance due to the clearing of catchments and subsequent increase in river sediments and silt at estuaries, could also upset this delicate ecosystem.

One method of enabling the marine life to be protected, would be to set aside an area with either representative species or abundant marine life, associated with the reservation of an area of foreshore, for example, at Cape Palliser. There would inevitably be problems involved with this concept, and the implementation of policy would be particularly difficult. The area could be defined by using the depth of water to delineate the 'boundaries', as certain species are known to inhabit a limited depth of water. However, the first stage of investigation must be to compile an inventory of the marine life so that effective and sensitive management can be achieved. The implementation of this proposal would be the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The seals at Black Rocks may require protection in the future. The implications of commercially harvesting seaweed should be investigated.

(d) RECREATION

The nature of the coastline severely limits some water-based activities including swimming, boating, water skiing and fishing from boats. However, there is much scope for passive recreational pursuits including sightseeing, tramping, photography and surf fishing, and other activities which are dependent on isolation and rugged scenery for much of their experience and enjoyment value.

A paradox in usage of Featherston County is built up in Zone 1 which covers Palliser Bay. Normally the extremely rough and exposed nature of the coastline would deter beach subdivision and attract only the hardier enthusiast. Campers and trampers do come in reasonably large numbers, though six bach settlements have also developed along the coast. In contrast, there are no bach settlements along the east coast north to Riversdale Beach in Masterton County.

Of the settlements in the Palliser Bay area, only Lake Ferry and Te Kopi are known to have been established since early European settlement. Lake Ferry was a very bush and important crossing point for settlers and stock coming into the Wairarapa and travelling to the east coast and Hawkes Bay, while Te Kopi was the site of a mid-nineteenth century whaling station. Although both sites have been inhabited for a considerable time the vast majority of building occurred after World War II and even as late as the 1960's and 1970's at Ngawihi and Whatarangi. Some recreational data has been collected from the inhabitants of these settlements for a dissertation prepared by a BA (Hons) student of Victoria University, Wellington in 1972. This is the only survey data available on recreation along the coast and is relevant only to Palliser Bay. The lack of information on recreation in general is a major drawback to planning for coastal recreation in the county.

Zone 2 is discussed in terms of the comments of local farmers about the public in addition to the physical attractiveness of various areas and the experiences gained on similar coastlines concerning access points, estuaries and prominent features.

The main points of significance about the Palliser Bay settlements are: they were built largely after World War II and were virtually unplanned; some were built illegally on Crown land, public road or Forest Service land,

The county council has through ordinances and zoning, provided for the expansion of Lake Ferry and Ngawihi settlements and limited Whatarangi and Whangaimoana to their present size. These policies will, in effect, remove all baches west of Lake Onoke and concentrate future development near Ngawihi which, being the farthest settlement out on the cape and having the largest number of permanent residents, seems to attract most new settlers.

An analysis of the recreational activities of a sample of the population in these settlements shows that sea fishing, walking and reading are amongst the most popular activities. This is not surprising, because the coast is renowned for good fishing and poor weather. A large number of people also swim which is surprising as the rough seas would presumably deter all but the best swimmers most of the year.

Added to this is the unusually low sea water temperature, particularly on the Pacific coast of Zone 2, which has the lowest summer temperatures of all New Zealand except some South Otago areas. Visitors, unaware of safe swimming spots, are not likely to attempt to swim. Not surprisingly, other water-based activities like boating, skiing and surfing are amongst the least patronised. Camping is also not popular with bach owners, whereas tramping and hunting are.

In summary, the recreational use pattern of Zone 1 is largely as would be expected for people on a rugged coastline who own a bach. Reading, walking and sea fishing are probably the most popular activities because all age groups can participate whilst other activities like tramping and hunting are in keeping with the nearby forest park. Water-based activities are the least popular, with the exception of swimming. The bach owners being largely an adult population, would find swimming less dangerous than younger people, but would not be frequent swimmers due to the prevailing weather.

From observation and discussion with local residents it is apparent that a large number of campers visit this coast, and it could be expected that they would follow the same recreational pursuits as bach owners, with the probable exceptions of swimming and shell fish collecting. The campers and day trippers are usually drawn to headlands, special features (seals, light-house) and areas of shelter and shade. This report will propose to identify areas of significance for use by all groups in Part III.

There is much less pressure for recreation on the coastline in Zone 2, though it could be expected that most uses outlined above for Zone 1 apply. Most visitors would be campers with a steady use of the Deer Stalker's hut near the White Rocks, or baches used by fishermen. Swimming will remain dangerous and walking, reading and fishing probably remain popular, along with camping. Hunting would be confined to those areas nearer Cape Palliser.

There are three roads to the coastal flats but few reserves or points of access to the shore itself. The climate, isolation, private ownership and lack of development on the coast has led to a situation where usage patterns are obscure. The coast of Zone 2 must be generally planned for its potential, not actual, recreational use and values identified can be protected by way of zoning to prevent undesirable land uses. As previously discussed the priorities, areas of special interest (White Rocks, shipwrecks), areas of shelter and shade and the headlands all merit some form of protection.

Activities such as horse riding could also be added to the general list of recreation activities because the large stations of Zone 2 may see some profit in allowing for this normally popular pastime of rural areas. It is also possible, as mentioned earlier in Section (c) that the fisherman might see some gain in taking people fishing or sightseeing. Zone 2 has no need for any bach settlements in the foreseeable future or the need for formal recreation grounds and developments. There are however, a number of historic Maori sites, excellent representatives of hundreds scattered around the Cape Palliser region, that merit recognition and public viewing. Freedom to walk along the entire zone is a desirable goal. The large scale station land use pattern of this coast adds to the impression of isolation.

Part 3: RESERVE PROPOSALS

In the preceding sections, the qualities and values of the Featherston County coastal fringe have been identified in terms of the natural landscape character and the potential for public recreational use. These provide the basis for a number of proposals which cover, in principle, the future provision of public access and usage in conjunction with conservation and preservation of the coastal environment. Some of the proposals included in this report restate the general principles first outlined in the initial coastal survey report carried out in 1968, and other matters regarding coastal reserves discussed by the Department of Lands and Survey and Featherston County Council prior to the publication of the County's District Scheme.

The Featherston County coastline has been divided into two zones, based on the varying topography, land use and other natural features. The first zone is characterised by terraced cliffs on either side of the valley area with narrow coastal flats, whereas the second zone has a series of important coastal flats with many rocky points. Recreational use of Zone 1 is much greater than that of Zone 2, which although providing a more attractive recreational setting, is more remote and less accessible than the Palliser Bay and Cape Palliser section. It is probable that future increases in recreational demand will come from those sections of the community in the Wairarapa and Wellington areas seeking an isolated, rugged and exposed type of environment. This demand is recognised in the following proposals.

The reserve proposals are chiefly concentrated at rocky points or headlands, and alongside river or stream mouths. Some of the points and headlands are exposed, but most of the other areas provide a degree of shelter, shade and either access to the river banks or ocean.

Some proposals include areas already designated as proposed reserves in the operative district scheme, whilst others are not considered in the scheme.

The major proposal is to ensure that public access is secured along the length of the county coastline. Although designated as "proposed esplanade reserve" in the district scheme, it is probable that a negotiated easement will provide access (without acquisition) for much of the coastline.

PROPOSAL A1 - COASTAL BUSH REMNANT

Aerial Photos: 4742-3

Aerial Mosaics: N 165/4

Aim: To extend under one tenure ownership of land to the coast for public recreational use.

Land and Area: Part of Rimutaka State Forest Park
Block V Onoke Survey District
Area: 30 hectares

Location: Just west of the mouth of Corner Creek on the northern most shore of Palliser Bay approximately six kilometres west of Lake Onoke.

Status: State Forest, Crown land and legal road.

Vegetation: Indigenous trees and coastal vegetation.

Access: By unmetalled road - an extension of the Wharekauhau Road.

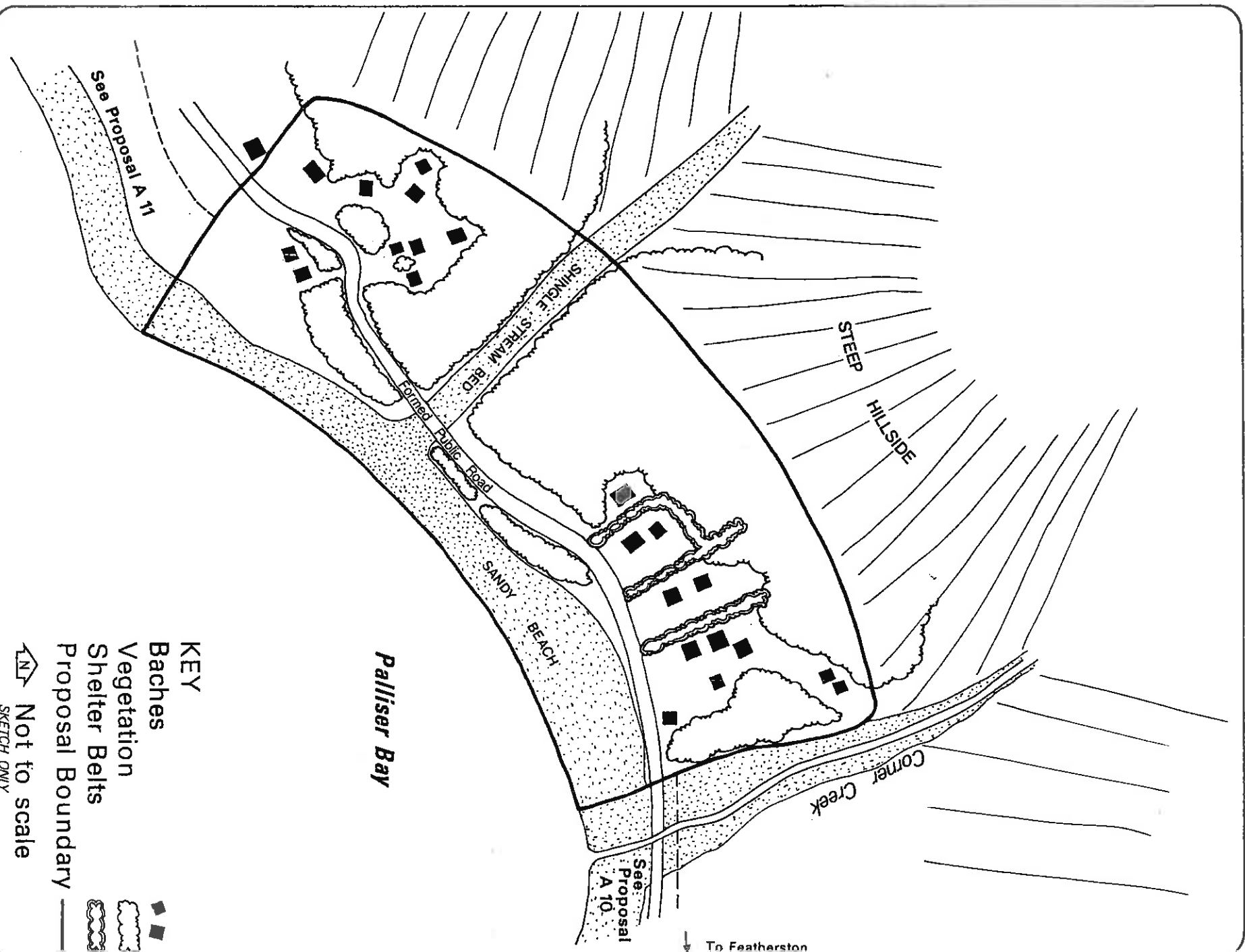
General: This area is situated between Rimutaka State Forest Park and the Mean High Water Mark and includes legal road and Crown land. Several unauthorised bachs are to be removed. Part of the area is already designated as proposed recreation reserve in the county's operative district scheme.

Underlying zoning : Rural

Significance: Regional

Priority: High

Action: The area be managed for compatible passive recreational activities providing picnic and camping facilities and to preserve the native vegetation.



Coastal Bush Remnant
Corner Creek

PROPOSAL

A1

PROPOSAL A2 - LAKE ONOKE

Aerial Photos: 4742-7/8 and 4743-8

Aerial Mosaics: N 165/4 and N 165/7

Aim: To manage Lake Onoke for wildlife purposes and recreation.

Land and Area: Parts of Lots 4, 5 and 6 DP 20901
Parts of Lots 24, 25 and 26 DP 1942. This
also includes part of Lake Onoke and lakebed.
Area: 850 hectares.

Location: Lake Onoke is approximately 40 km by road southwest
of Featherston- It is separated from the sea
(Palliser Bay) by a gravel and sand bar, which is
not stabilised.

Status: Crown, local authority freehold.

Vegetation: Most of the vegetation in this area is wetland
vegetation with some salt-resistant species on the
western shore.

Access: There is access to both sides of the lake from
Featherston, along the Western Lake road and the Lake
Ferry Road.

Utilisation: Fishing, wildlife, scenic.

General: The area has been identified by the Wildlife Service
as being an important bird habitat - especially those
areas on the western shore.

The Featherston County District Scheme has designated
the bar as esplanade reserve.

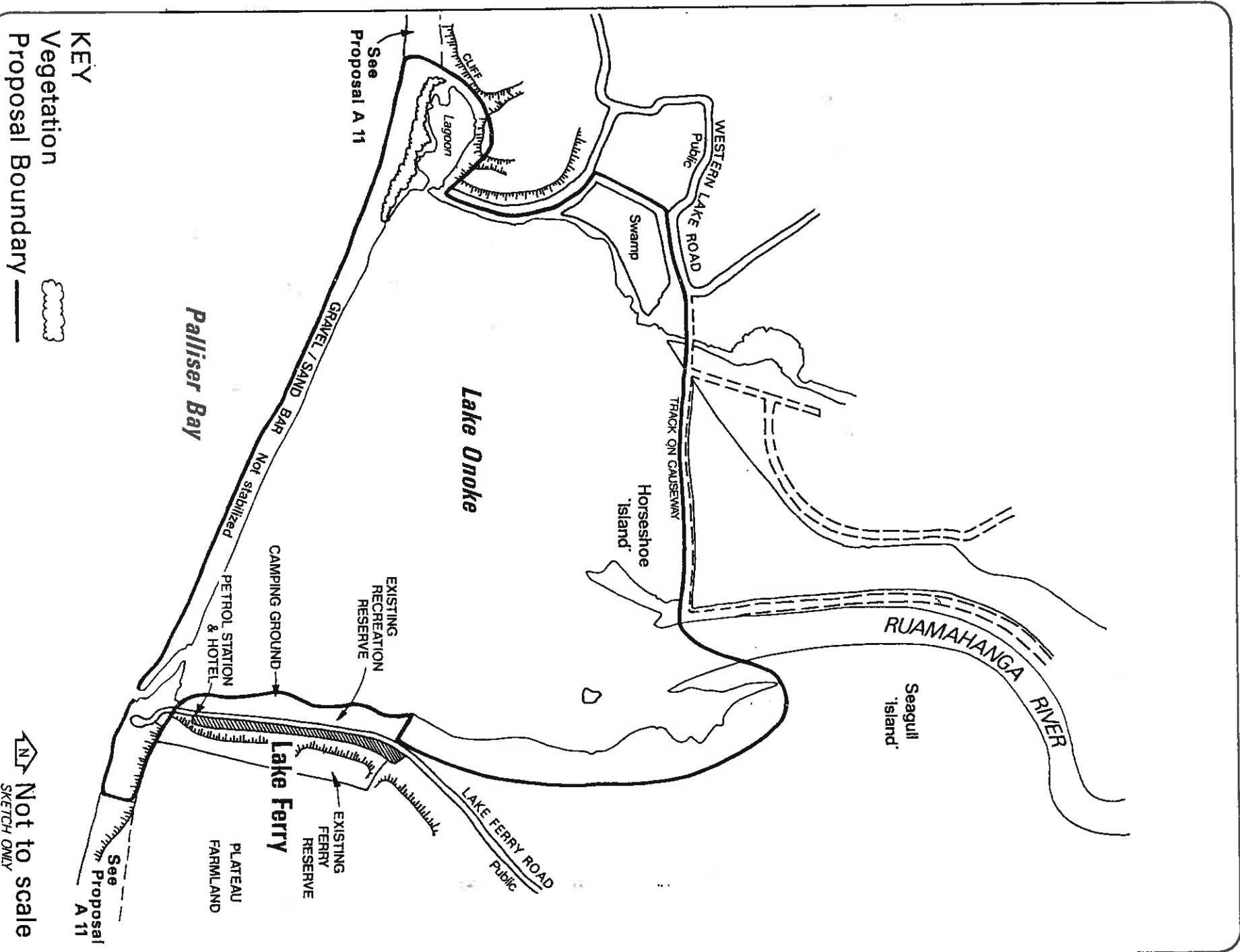
History: Lake Ferry is the site of an old ferry station for
travellers from Wellington going to the Wairarapa and
Hawkes Bay.



Significance: Regional


Priority: High

- Action:
1. That the local authority and the Crown negotiate with
the owners of freehold land involved to establish the
possibility of adopting adequate control measures to
protect the natural and scientific features of the
lake and coastline.
 2. The Crown to investigate the most appropriate mechanisms
for managing Lake Onoke for both wildlife and recreation.

FEATHERSTON COUNTY COASTAL RESERVES INVESTIGATION



KEY
Vegetation 
Proposal Boundary 

 Not to scale
SKETCH ONLY

Lake Onoke

PROPOSAL
A2

PROPOSAL A3 - WHANGAIMOANA BEACH

Aerial Photos: 4743-10

Aerial Mosaics: N 165/7 and N 165/8

Aim: To obtain the protection of an area of coastal land for recreation purposes.

Land and Area: Part 10 DP 1943 and Part Lot 1 DP 9266 and part of Whangaimoana Beach Road.
Area: 6 hectares.

Location: At the end of Whangaimoana Beach Road approximately 3 km east of Lake Onoke.

Status: Freehold.

Vegetation: Wetland, rushes and other salt-resistant species.

Access: Via Whangaimoana Beach Road, which is metalled.

Utilisation: Recreation, scenic.

General: This small sandy beach has been built up of material deposited by the Whangaimoana Stream.

The beach forms a break in this area of coast which is largely steep cliffs ending right at the sea. As such it forms an open recreational area, which could be enhanced for a range of passive uses (picnicking, camping).

Featherston County has designated the land as "proposed reserve for public recreation and open spaces".

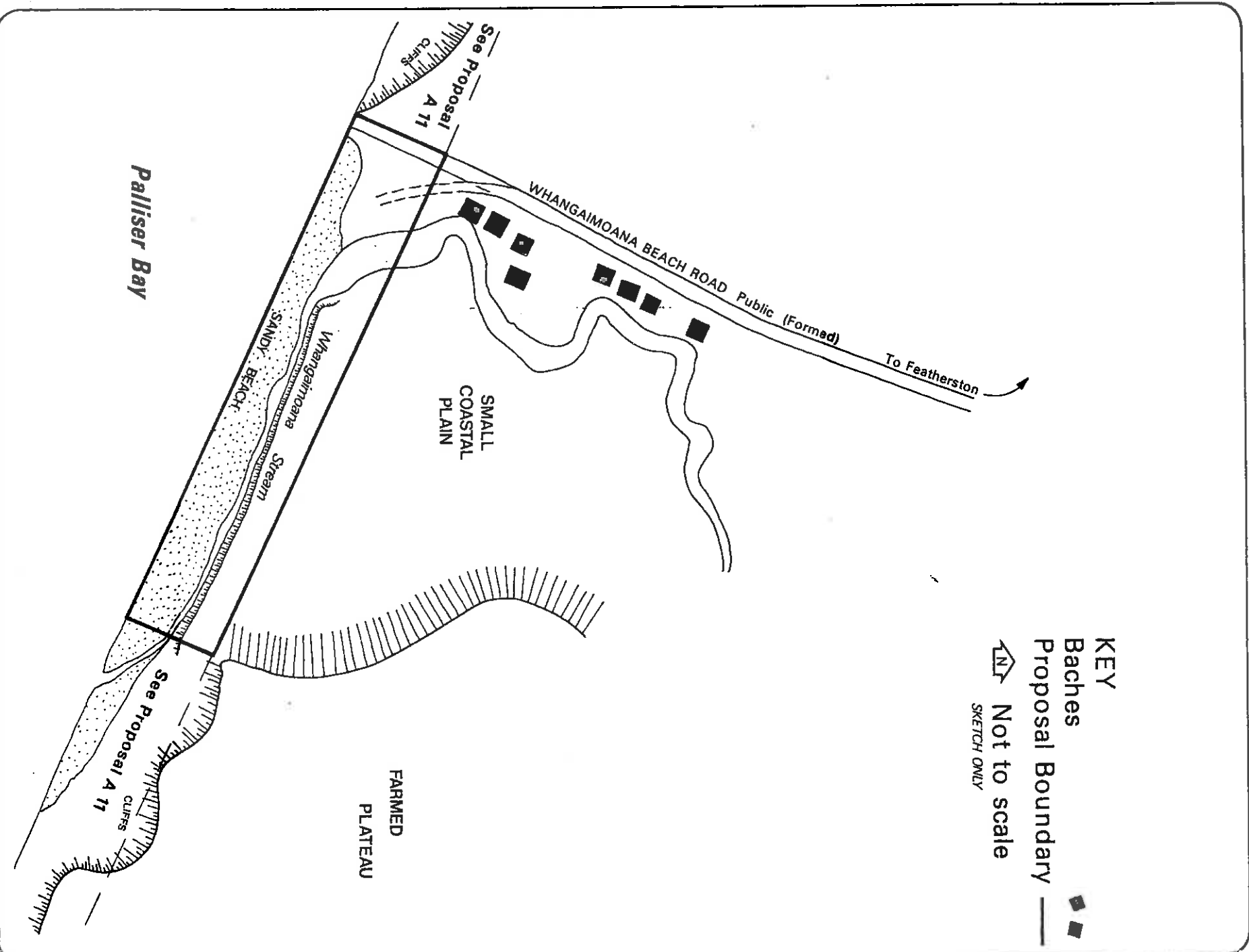
History: The Brig 'Shamrock' was wrecked here in 1861.

Significance: Local

Priority: Medium.

Action: To ensure that the recognition of this area as being of public value is followed through in the next review of the district scheme.

FEATHERSTON COUNTY COASTAL RESERVES INVESTIGATION



Whangaimoana Beach

PROPOSAL A 11

PROPOSAL A4 - DICK'S GULLY

Aerial Photos: 4744-4

Aerial Mosaics: N 165/8

Aim: To protect an area of coastal land and bush for its scenic value.

Land and Area:

- (a) Section 6 Block XIV Haurangi Survey District, Part Lot 6 DP 9793 Block XIII Haurangi Survey District.
Area: approximately 6 hectares.
- (b) Unalienated Crown land.
Area: approximately 5.6 hectares.

Location: Approximately 13.5 km south of Pirinoa along Whatarangi Road between the road and Palliser Bay.

Status: Crown; County.

Vegetation: On the south side of the gully is an area of native scrub. A further area to the east of Dick's Gully has fast regenerating native vegetation.

Access: From Whatarangi Road (metalled).

Utilisation: Surrounding areas are grazed, but the gully itself has long been used for informal recreational activities.

General: This area is particularly attractive with small streams running down the steep gully. The native trees provide shade and wind protection with the additional asset of fresh water from the streams.

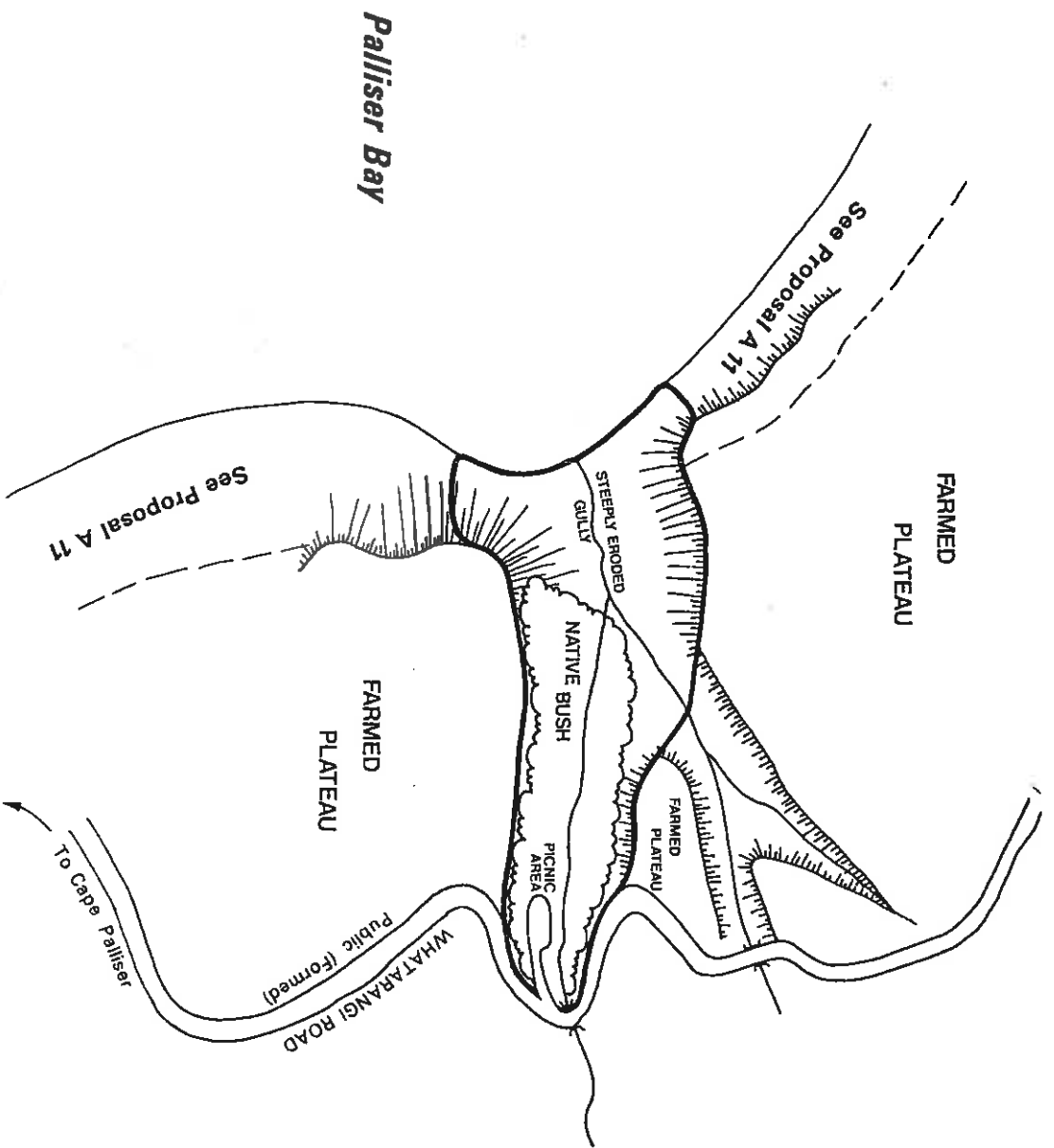
The Featherston County Council owns Lot 1 DP 40130 which is used as a picnic area. The balance is Crown land with the farmed areas being leased on temporary grazing licences. The two areas of bush have been identified as a possible scenic reserve.

Significance: Local


Priority: Medium

Action: The Department of Lands and Survey to investigate further the reserve potential of the bush areas and the papa coastal bluffs.

FEATHERSTON COUNTY COASTAL RESERVES INVESTIGATION



KEY
Vegetation 
Proposal Boundary 

 Not to scale
SKETCH ONLY

Dicks Gully

PROPOSAL

A4

PROPOSAL A5 - FORMER PINNACLES FARM SETTLEMENT

Aerial Photos: 4745--2

Aerial Mosaics: N 165/8

Aim: To add an area of Crown land to the Haurangi Forest Park. To set aside an area of coastal land as scenic and to set aside an area of land for recreation purposes.

Land and Area: Part Te Kopi 2, 4 and Part 2, 3A Block XIII
Haurangi Survey District
Area: 4.5 hectares

Location: Approximately 16 km south of Pirinoa along the Whatarangi Road. Area covers land from the coast to the edge of the plateau between the Hurupi Steam and the Putangirua Stream.

Status: Crown land.

Vegetation: Native scrub, small stand of exotic trees near road.

Access: Via Whatarangi Road and Cape Palliser Road.

Utilisation: Forest Park Ranger's house, access to Haurangi Forest Park.

General: The site includes a possible pa site and karaka grove near the Putangirua Stream. This area (above the road) is part of the former Pinnacles Farm Settlement and is to be transferred to the New Zealand Forest Service for inclusion in Haurangi Forest Park.

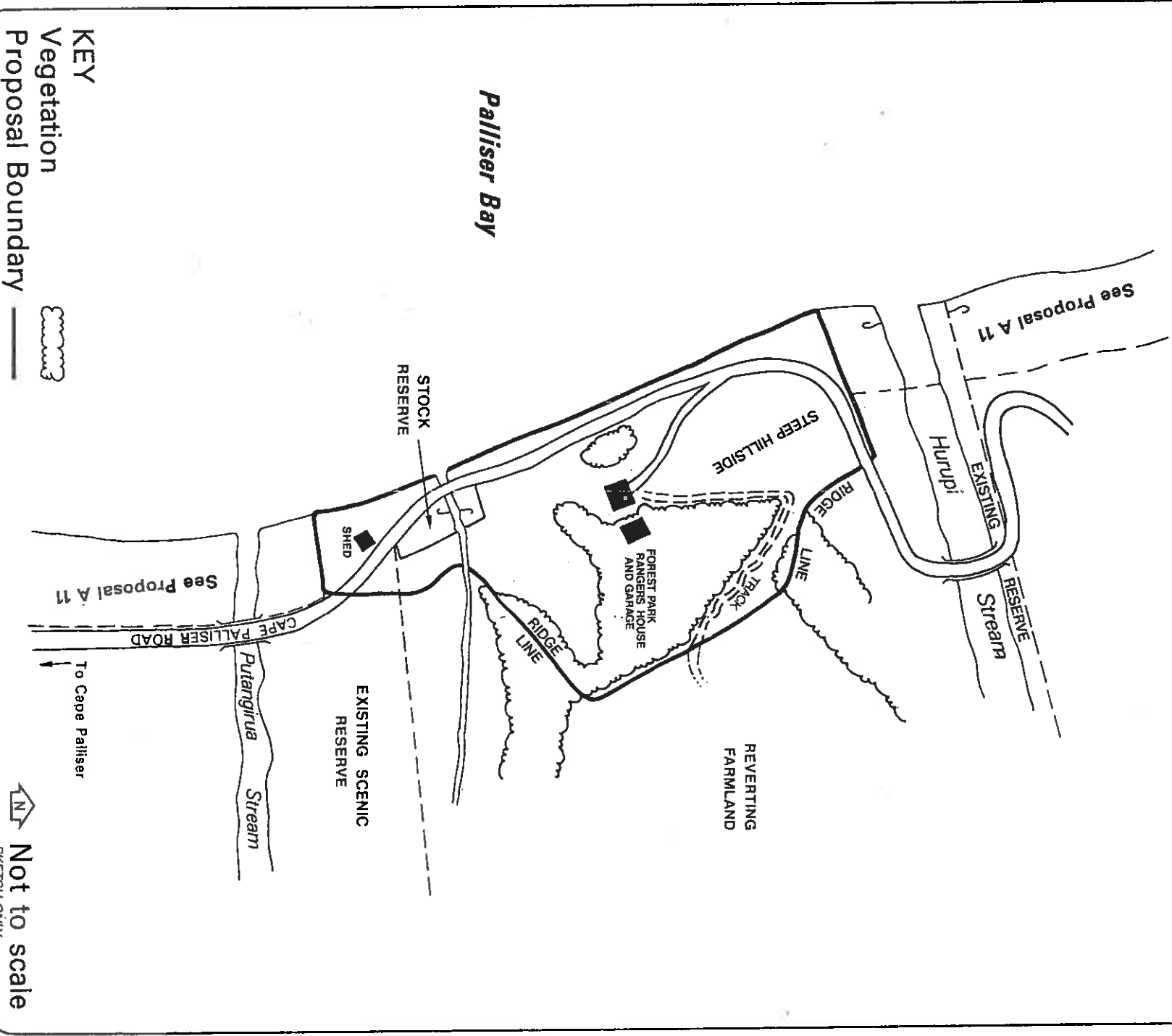
The land between the road and the coastline (2.5 ha) is to be managed for recreation purposes.

Significance: Regional

Priority: Medium

- Action:
1. Administrative action is being taken to add land north of the road to the forest park.
 2. To establish a recreation reserve between the road the the coastline.

FEATHERSTON COUNTY COASTAL RESERVES INVESTIGATION



Former Pinnacles
Farm Settlement

PROPOSAL
A5

PROPOSAL A6 - THE HUMENGA POINT

Aerial Photos: 4748-1

Aim: To seek the protection of an area of coastal land for recreation purposes.

Land and Area: Part 2B, Part 2C and Part 2A1 Kawakawa Block
Block V Kaiwaka Survey District.
Area: 25 hectares

Location: Between the sea and Cape Palliser Road and a small area on the south side of the road, approximately 26 km south of Pirinoa in the eastern area of Palliser Bay.

Status: Freehold.

Vegetation: Grasses and scattered scrub.

Access: Via Cape Palliser Road.

Utilisation: Airstrip (private), grazing.

General: The area is a rocky point with a sand and gravel flat extending into a deep gully, with a remnant of coastal vegetation.

Forms a good outlook into Palliser Bay.

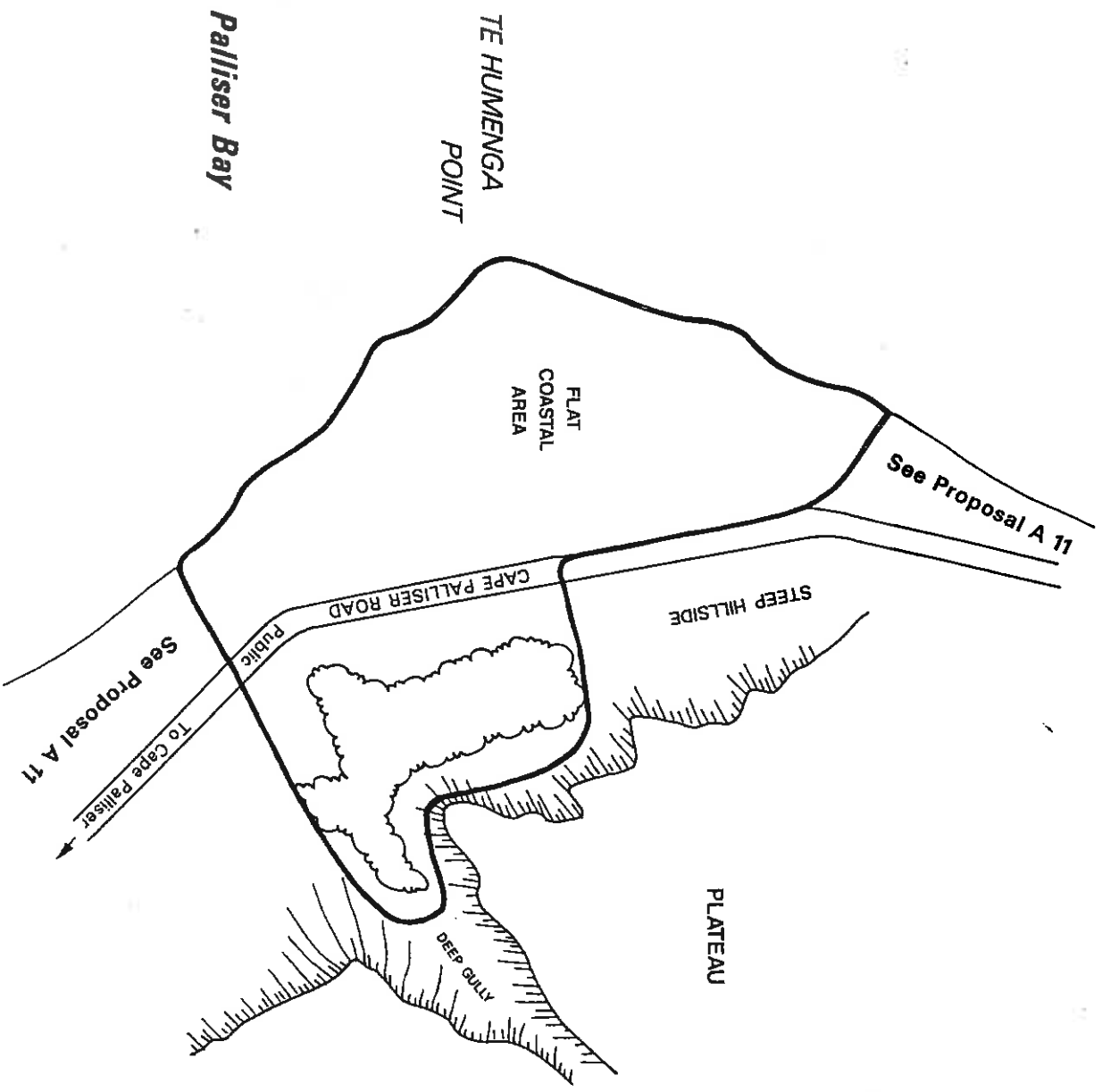
The county's district scheme shows part of the proposal to be designed as proposed esplanade reserve and part as being designated for 'nature conservation purposes'.

Significance: Local


Priority: Medium

- Action:
1. The purpose of this proposal be discussed with the landowners with the aim of achieving some form of adequate protection and control.
 2. To support the present designation of the county over the land between Cape Palliser Road and the coast.

FEATHERSTON COUNTY COASTAL RESERVES INVESTIGATION



KEY
Vegetation 
Proposal Boundary 

 Not to scale
SKETCH ONLY

Te Humenga Point

PROPOSAL
A6

PROPOSAL A7 - BLACK ROCKS

Aerial Photos: 4751-2

Aerial Mosaics: Not available.

Aim: To obtain the protection of an area of coastal land for recreation purposes.

Land and Area: Part 1D Kawakawa Block, Block IX
Kaiwaka Survey District
Area: 45 hectares

Location: Between the sea and Cape Palliser Road approximately 9 km south of Te Hūmenga Point from Ngawhi Settlement to the Mangatoetoe Stream.

Status: Maori land.

Vegetation: Grassy flats.

Access: Via Cape Palliser Road

Utilisation: Recreation, fishing.

General: Good southerly views, midden site.

This area would preserve the coastline in depth from uncontrolled development and also provide for future needs. This land consists of large areas of rock and shingle with intermittent grassy flats.

There is a substantial seal colony at the rocks.

Three ships have been wrecked here: Steamer - Waitaki, 1887 Cutter - Siren, 1945 (2 lives lost); fishing vessel - Pausubre, 1972.

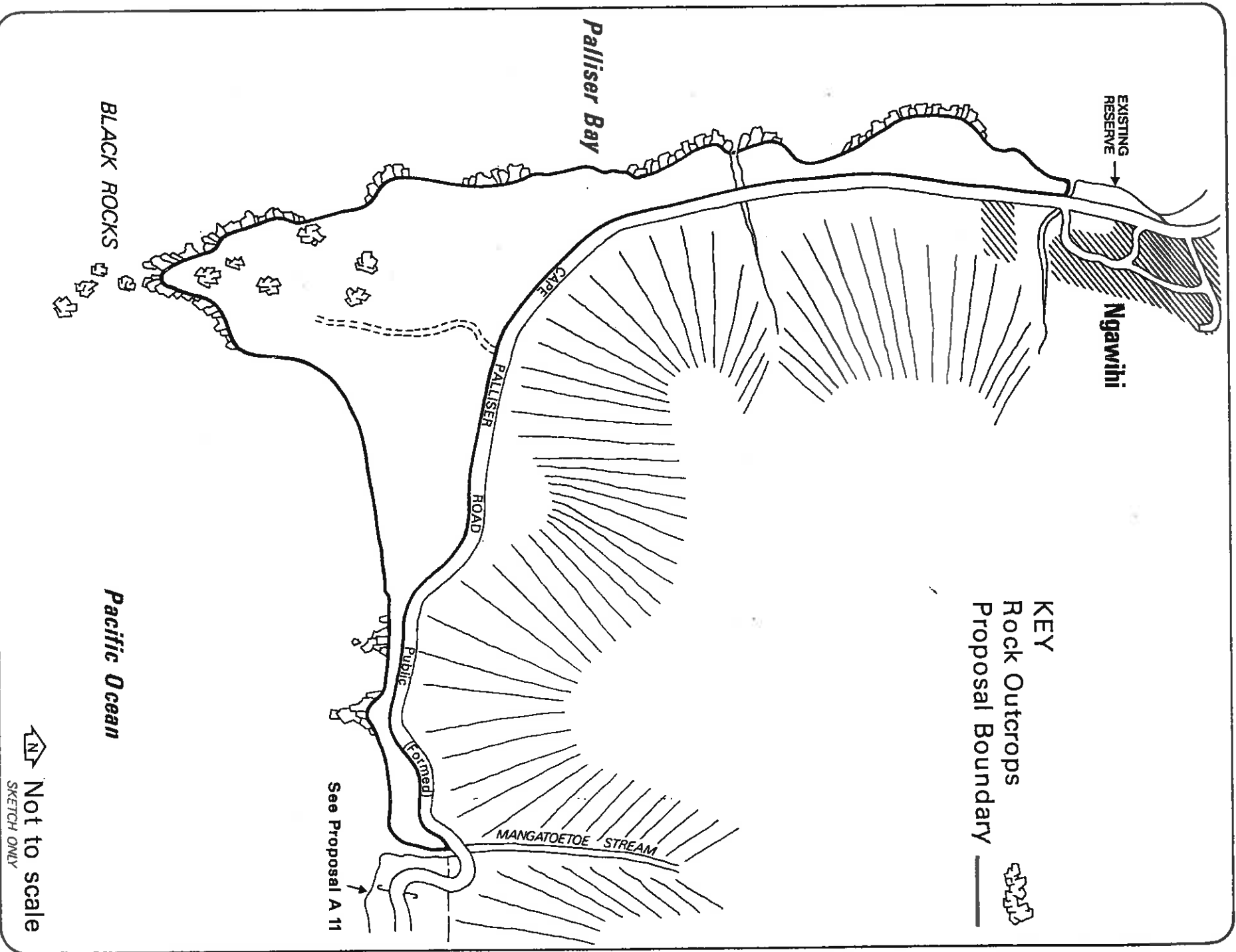
Featherston County has designated this area as "proposed reserve for public recreation and open spaces".

Significance: Regional.

Priority: Medium

Action: To ensure that adequate protection is retained for this area in the district scheme.

FEATHERSTON COUNTY COASTAL RESERVES INVESTIGATION



KEY
Rock Outcrops
Proposed Boundary

↗ N ↖ Not to scale

SKETCH ONLY

Black Rocks

PROPOSAL

A7

PROPOSAL A8 - CAPE PALLISER

Aerial Photos: 4751-3

Aerial Mosaics: Not available.

Aim: To seek the management and use of an area of coastal land for recreation for the protection of vegetation.

Land and Area: Part 3, Part 1B1 and Part 1B2, Matakaitaki Block Block IX Kaiwaka Survey District.
Area: 20 hectares

Location: The southern-most point of the North Island, approximately 12.5 km south of Te Humenga Point and 74 km from Featherston.

Status: Maori land, freehold.

Vegetation: Remnant of coastal vegetation which may contain some rare species.

Access: Via Cape Palliser Road.

Utilisation: Recreation (informal camping).

General: This area has some significance because it is the most southerly point of the North Island. The vegetation remnant may also contain fairly rare species.

Site includes karaka trees, midden and stone wall enclosure.

Part 3 Matakaitaki Block is a Maori reserve for the common use of the owners of Te Kopi, Kawakawa, and Matakaitaki Blocks as a landing place and a fishing ground (NZ Gazette 1941 p 602).

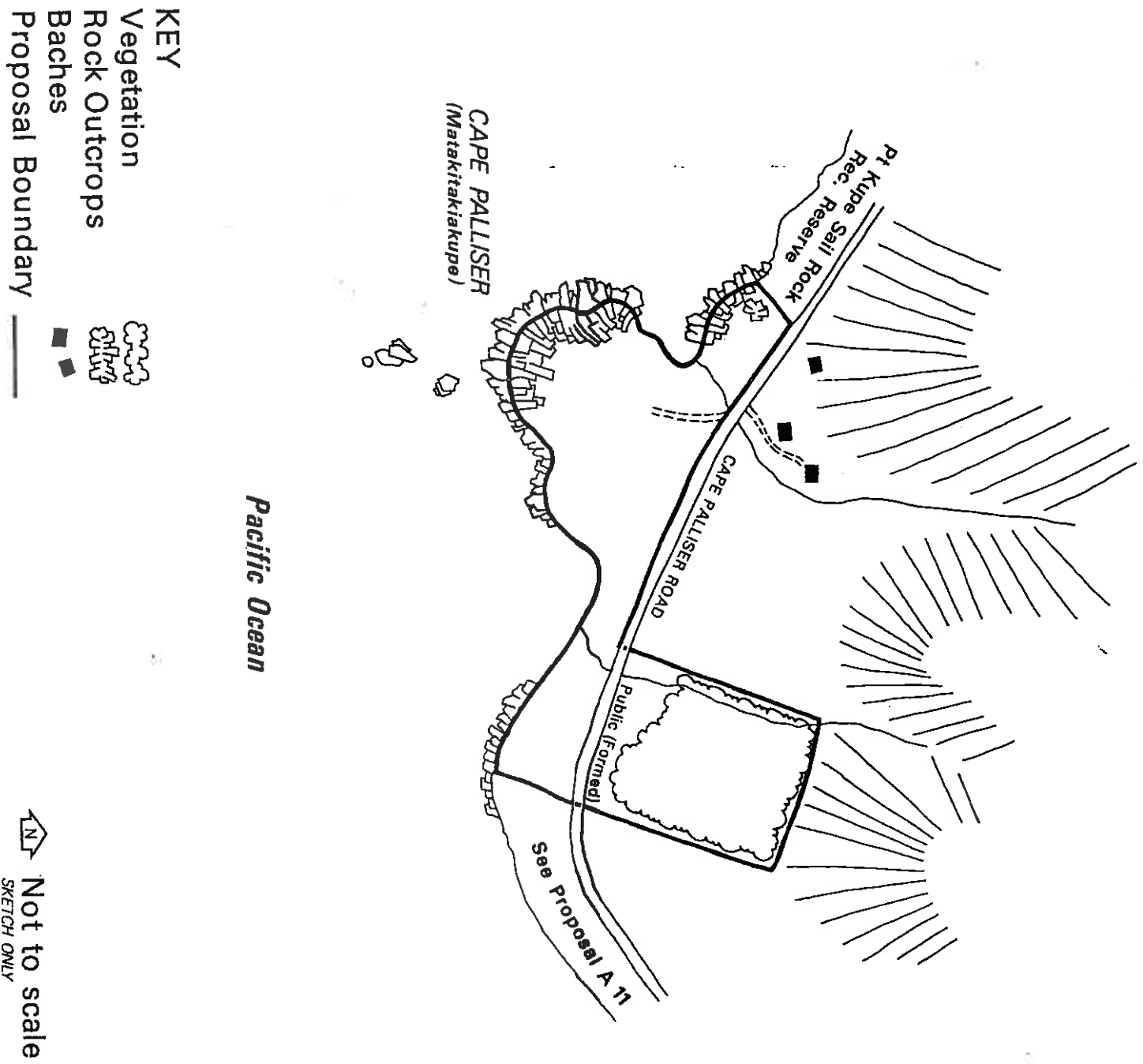
History: Three shipwrecks: 'Pickwick' 1845 (2 lives lost); 'Ben Avon' 1903; and 'Quest' 1975, have been recorded at Cape Palliser.

Significance: Regional

Priority: Medium

Action: That the Featherston County and the Crown negotiate with the landowners the possibility of adopting adequate control measures to manage features of this coastline.

FEATHERSTON COUNTY COASTAL RESERVES INVESTIGATION



- KEY**
- Vegetation
 - Rock Outcrops
 - Baches
 - Proposal Boundary

Not to scale
SKETCH ONLY

Cape Palliser

PROPOSAL
A8

PROPOSAL A9 - PALLISER COAST

Aerial Photos: 4751-5

Aerial Mosaics: Not available.

Aim: To seek the protection of a strip of coastal land for recreation and nature conservation.

Land and Area: Part 2 and Part 4 Matakaitaki Block and Section 1 Block X Kaiwaka Survey District.
Area: approximately 250 hectares

Location: A strip of land approximately 700 metres wide extending from Te Roro Stream to Mataopera Stream 4.5 km east of Cape Palliser.

Status: Crown renewable lease, Maori land.

Vegetation: Some remnants of rare coastal vegetation. Karaka Grove.

Access: Via Cape Palliser Road and then along a rough vehicle (4 wheel drive) track from the Cape Palliser Lighthouse.

Utilisation: Extensively used for informal camping.

General: The vegetation includes species that are rare along the southern coastal section of the North Island. Public use for camping without formal management controls has led to environmental deterioration of this area through rubbish disposal and uncontrolled fires.

The area is bounded by State Forest on two sides and by reserve along MHWM. It appears to be of little or no agricultural value, being mainly rock cliffs, steep, scrub covered slopes and scree fans.

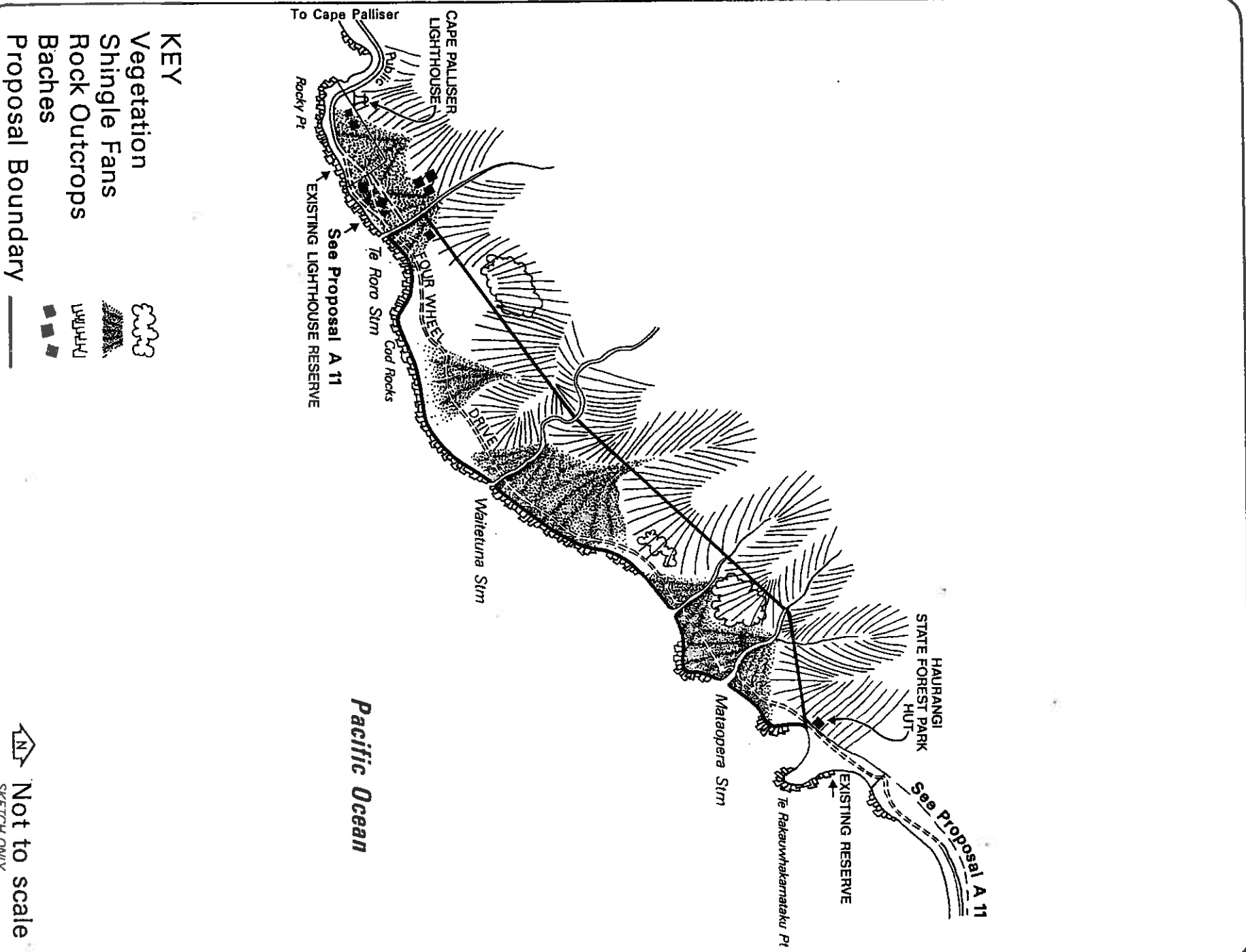
Featherston County has designated part of this area (between Waitetuna and Mataopera Streams) as "proposed wilderness reserve".






Significance: National


Priority: High

Action: That the New Zealand Forest Service, local authority, lessee and landowners be approached to discuss the management of this area for recreation, public access and the protection of vegetation.

FEATHERSTON COUNTY COASTAL RESERVES INVESTIGATION



- KEY**
- Vegetation 
 - Shingle Fans 
 - Rock Outcrops 
 - Baches 
 - Proposal Boundary 

 Not to scale
 SKETCH ONLY

Palliser Coast

PROPOSAL
A9

PROPOSAL A19 - COASTAL EASEMENT

Aerial Photos: 4240-11/12/13; 4742-3/4/5/6/7/8; 4743-7/8/9/10/11;
4744-3/4; 4745-1/2; 4746-1/2; 4747-1/2; 4748-1/2;
4749-1/2; 4750-2/3; 4751-1/2/3/4/5/6; 4750-8/9; 4749-2/3.

Aerial Mosaics: N 164/6, N 165/4,7,8.

Aim: To obtain public right of way along the coastline.

Land and Area: Coastal area Part Block VII Pencarrow Survey District
Coastal area Part Block V, VI, VII Onoke Survey District
Coastal area Part Blocks IX, XIII Haurangi Survey District
Coastal area Part Blocks I, V, IX, X and Part XI Kaiwaka
Survey District.
Area: approximately 240 hectares

Location: A strip of coastal land stretching from Mukamukaitai
Stream, near Windy Point (Palliser Bay), around Palliser
Bay and Cape Palliser to Waiarekeke Stream (midway between)
Te Rakauwhakamataku Point and White Rock), joining up all
the Zone A Block proposals in this report.
Width: from coastline to road (approximately 40 metres).

Status: State Forest, Freehold, Crown land and Maori land.

Access: Via Wharekaupahu Road to east of Lake Onoke and Cape Palliser
Road to the west of the lake. Past the Cape Palliser light-
house a rough vehicle track extends to Waiarekeke Stream
from where the track joins up with the Ngapotiki Road from
Martindorough.

Utilisation: Various, including grazing, recreation and bach settlement.

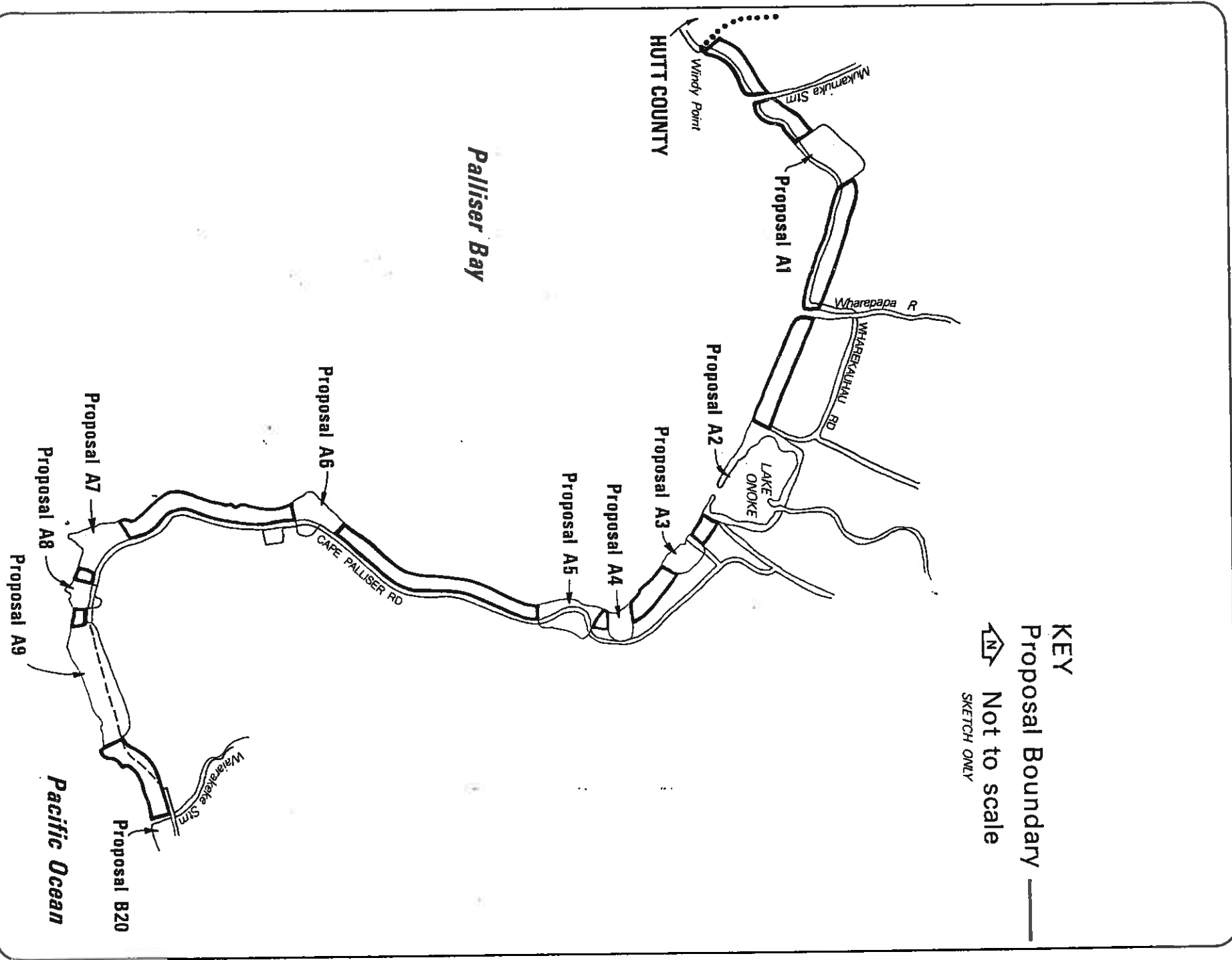
General: The Featherston County Council has designated this area
as proposed esplanade reserve in its operative district
scheme.

Significance: Regional

Priority: High

- Action:
1. To ensure that the protection given to this area in the district scheme is recognised and maintained in subsequent reviews of the scheme.
 2. To refer this proposal to the Wellington District Walkway Committee for investigation as a possible walkway.
 3. To investigate the need to reserve Crown land within this proposal for setting apart as esplanade reserves.

FEATHERSTON COUNTY COASTAL RESERVES INVESTIGATION



Coastal Easement - Zone 1

PROPOSAL
A10

PROPOSAL B11 - TE KAUKAU POINT

Aerial Photos: 4749-11

Aerial Mosaics: Not available.

Aim: To obtain the protection and preservation of an area of coastal land for its recreation, scientific and historic values.

Land and Area: Part Section 1 Block VII Opouawe Survey District.
Area: 10 hectares

Location: An area of land at the mouth of the Opouawe River approximately 50 km south of Martinborough.

Status: Freehold.

Vegetation: Grassland.

Access: Via White Rock Road from Martinborough and along public unformed road across the Opouawe River.

Utilisation: Farmland.

General: This point includes a pa site, ovens and midden.

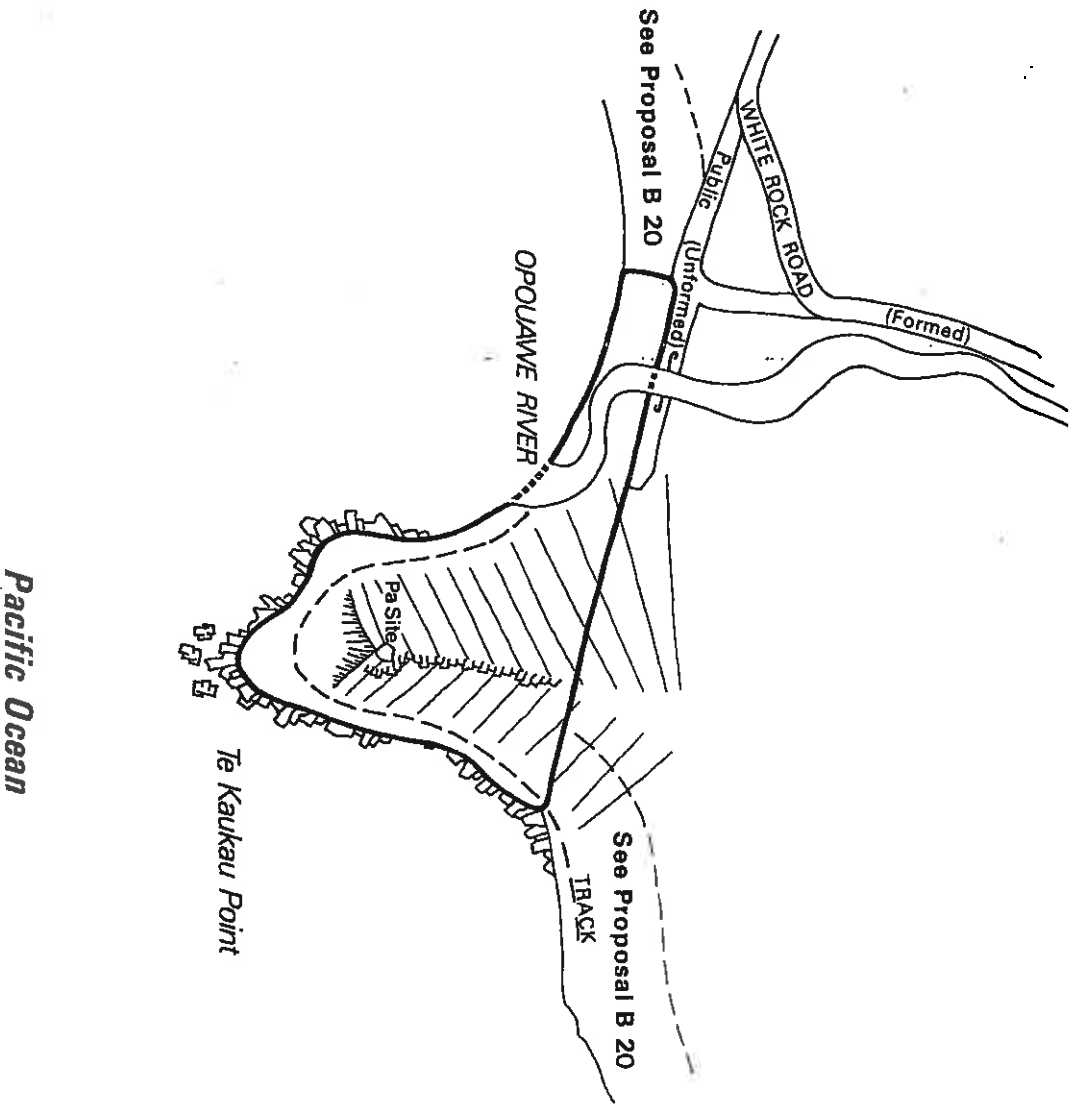
History: Two shipwrecks have been recorded at Te Kaukau Point: Schooner Lizzie Guy 1888 (2 lives lost); Schooner Delmira 1896.

Significance: Local

Priority: Medium

Action: Landowners and local authority and NZ Historic Places Trust to discuss appropriate management of this area.

FEATHERSTON COUNTY COASTAL RESERVES INVESTIGATION



KEY
Rock Outcrops
Proposed Boundary

Not to scale
SKETCH ONLY

Te Kaukau Point

PROPOSAL
B11

PROPOSAL B12 - OROI STREAM KARAKA GROVE

Aerial Photos: 4749-12

Aerial Mosaics: Not available.

Aim: To seek the protection of an area of coastal land for recreation and scenic protection purposes.

Land and Area: Part Section 294 and Part Section 295
Block V Opuawe Survey District.
Area: approximately 12 hectares

Location: At the mouth of the Oroī Stream 3 km north east of Te Kaukau Point.

Status: Freehold.

Vegetation: Karaka trees and coastal scrub.

Access: Via the Tora Road or along the rough vehicle track from Te Kaukau Point.

Utilisation: Farmland.

General: This area includes two stands of karaka trees and Maori earthworks beside the Oroī Stream.

A major pa site is located outside the proposal.

The Featherston County Council's District Scheme has designated part of this area as a reserve for public recreation and open spaces.

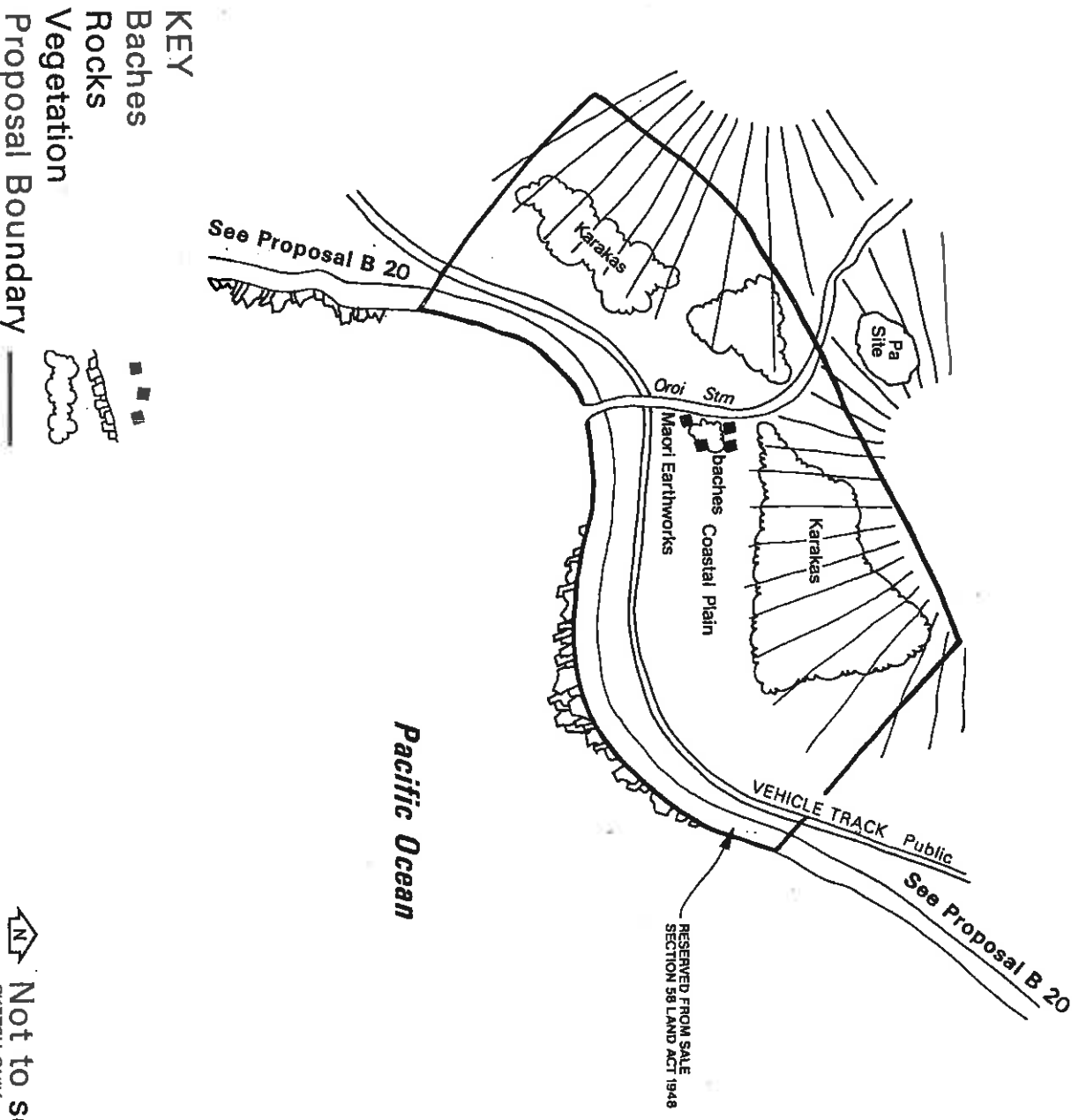
There are four baches in the area forming a small fishing settlement.

Significance: Regional.

Priority: Low

- Action:
1. That the purpose of this proposal be discussed with the landowners and the NZ Historic Places Trust with the aim of achieving protection for the land outside the designated area.
 2. To seek continued protection for the significant areas in subsequent reviews of the district scheme.
 3. To investigate further the importance of the pa site and the possible need for protection.

FEATHERSTON COUNTY COASTAL RESERVES INVESTIGATION



Oroi Stream
Karakas Grove

Not to scale
SKETCH ONLY

PROPOSAL
B12

PROPOSAL B13 - TORA

Aerial Photos: 4747-15

Aerial Mosaics: N 169/1

Aim: To seek the protection of an area of coastal bush so as to protect its scenic value.

Land and Area: Section 281 Block II Oponawe Survey District.
Area: 14.5 hectares

Location: On the landward side of Tora Farm Settlement Road,
1 km west of the Awhea River mouth.

Status: Crown - Renewable lease (RLF 345).

Vegetation: Karaka trees and coastal scrub.

Access: Via Tora Road, 46 km from Martinborough.

Utilisation: Water and soil conservation purposes.

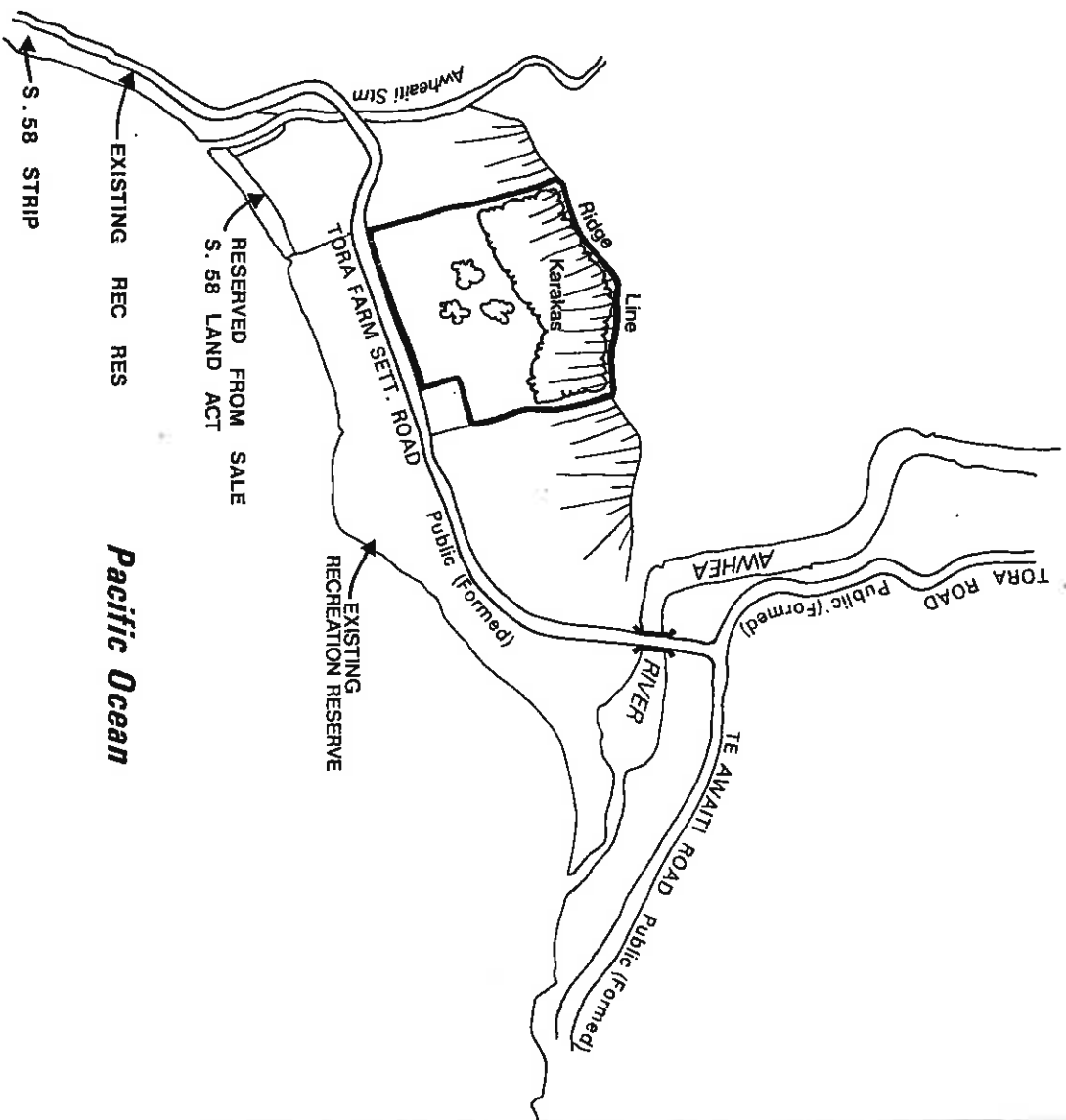
General: A large karaka grove giving a visually pleasing backdrop to a coastal area used for recreation - mainly surfing, picnicking and walking- The beach has good surf in northerly conditions.



Significance: Regional.


Priority: Medium

Action: The purpose of this proposal to be discussed with the lessee with the aim of ensuring protection for the grove of trees.

FEATHERSTON COUNTY COASTAL RESERVES INVESTIGATION



KEY
Vegetation 
Proposal Boundary 

 Not to Scale
SKETCH ONLY

Tora

PROPOSAL
B13

PROPOSAL B14 - MANUREWA POINT

Aerial Photos: 264-21

Aerial Mosaics: N 169/1

Aim: To seek the protection of an area of coastal land so as to protect its scenic value.

Land and Area: Part Section 274 Block III Opouawe Survey District.
Area: 11 hectares (approximately)

Location: Between Te Awaiti Road and the coast approximately 1 km east of the Awhea River mouth.

Status: Crown - being purchased by way of deferred payment, (30 years from 1 July 1967). Crown land reserved from sale.

Vegetation: Grassland.

Access: Via Tora Road and Te Awaiti Road.

Utilisation: Farming.

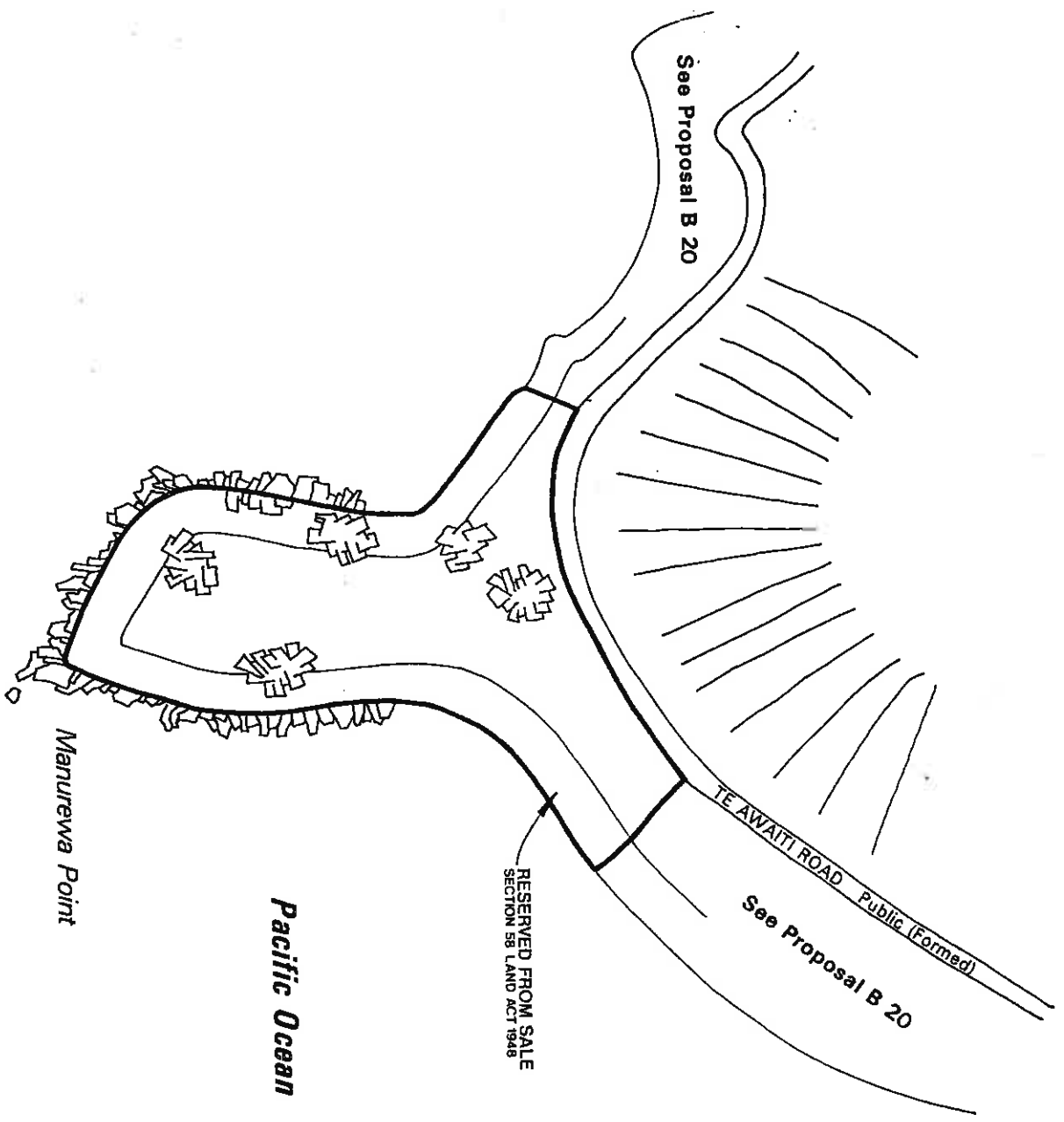
General: A rocky headland which should be protected from development, especially buildings.
Featherston County has designated this area as "proposed reserve for public recreation and open space", and has provided some picnic and bar-b-que facilities.

Significance: Regional.


Priority: Low

Action: To seek continued protection for the land in subsequent reviews of the district scheme.

FEATHERSTON COUNTY COASTAL RESERVES INVESTIGATION



KEY
Rock Outcrops 
Proposal Boundary 

 Not to scale
SKETCH ONLY

Manurewa Point

**PROPOSAL
B14**

PROPOSAL B15 - STONEY BAY RESERVES

Aerial Photos: 264-22

Aerial Mosaics: N 169/1

Aim: To seek the protection of two areas of coastal land for recreation purposes.

Land and Area: Parts of Section 265 Block III Opouawe Survey District. Area: 2 hectares and 1 hectare.

Location: Two small areas on either side of an airstrip between Te Awaiti Road and the coast approximately 2.5 km and 3 km north east of the Awhea River mouth.

Status: Crown renewable lease, 33 years from 1 January 1958 and Crown land reserved from sale.

Vegetation: Grassland.

Access: Via Tora Road and Te Awaiti Road.

Utilisation: By fishermen (boating ramp).

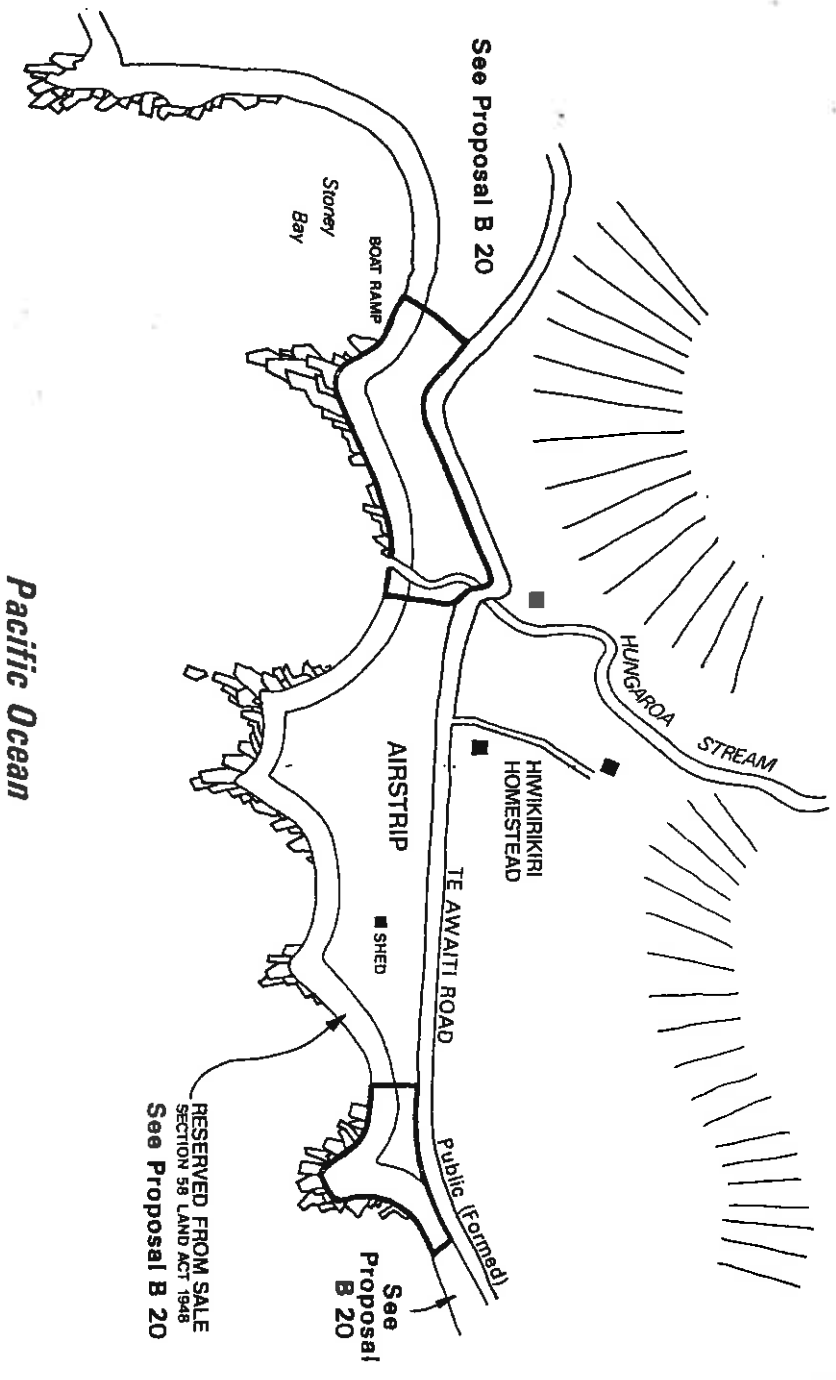
General: Featherston County Council has designated both areas in its district scheme as proposed "reserves for public recreation and open spaces".

Significance: Local.

Priority: Medium

Action: To seek continued protection for the land in subsequent reviews of the district scheme.

FEATHERSTON COUNTY COASTAL RESERVES INVESTIGATION



KEY
Rock Outcrops 
Proposal Boundary 

 Not to scale
SKETCH ONLY

Stoney Bay Reserves

**PROPOSAL
B15**

PROPOSAL B16 - TE AWAITI HISTORIC SITE

Aerial Photos: 3896-10

Aerial Mosaics: N 166/7

Aim: To obtain protection for an area of coastal land so as to protect its historic values.

Land and Area: Part Lot 3 DP 5582, Block XVI Waipawa Survey District and Block VIII Mt Adams Survey District.

Location: A flat area on the coast approximately 8 km north east of Te Awaiti and 7.5 km south west of the Pahaoa River mouth.

Status: Freehold.

Vegetation: Grassland, rock outcrops and beach.

Access: Via Tora Road, Te Awaiti Road and along a rough track from the end of this.

Utilisation: Farmland.

General: Contains Maori earthworks.

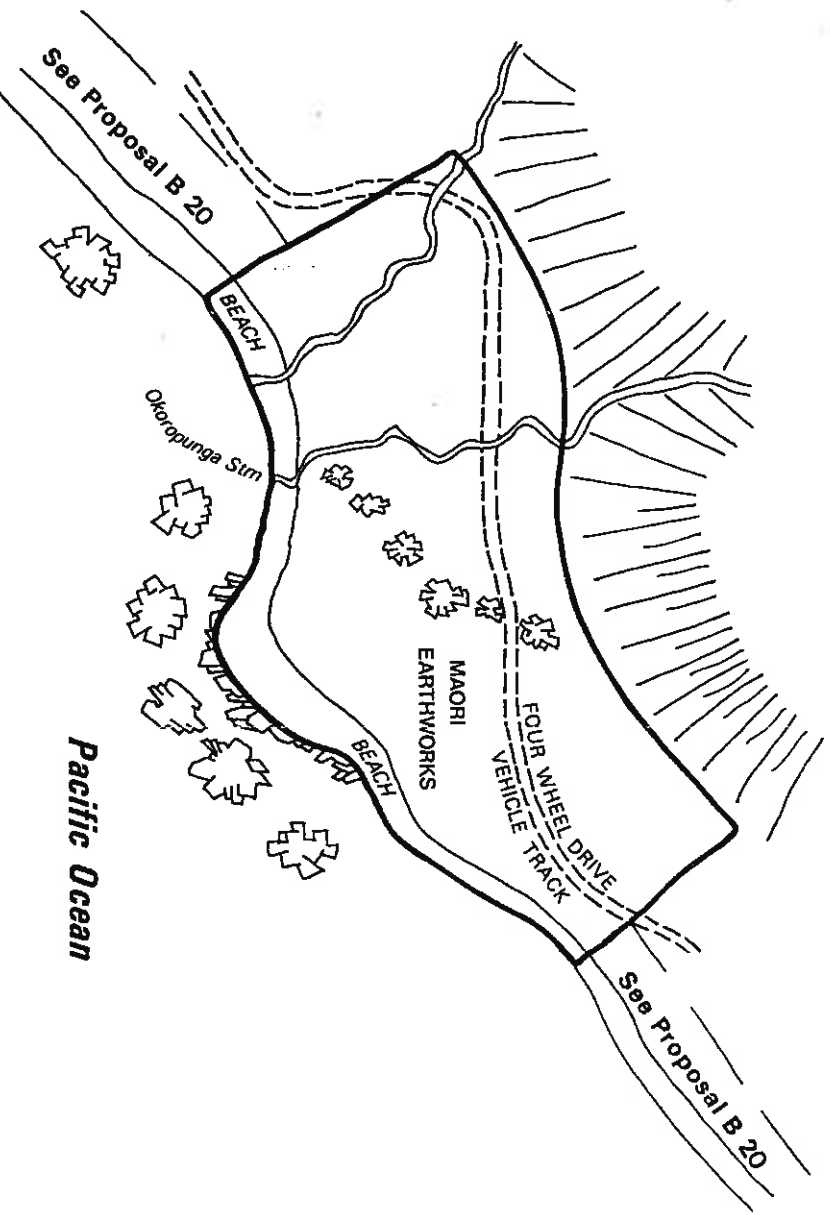
Significance: Local

Priority: Medium

Action: To discuss this proposal to protect the historic values with the landowner, Featherston County Council and the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

FEATHERSTON COUNTY COASTAL RESERVES INVESTIGATION

KEY
Rocks 
Proposal Boundary 



 Not to scale
SKETCH ONLY

Te Awaiti
Historic Site

PROPOSAL
B16

PROPOSAL B17 - DEVIL'S CREEK KARAKA GROVE

Aerial Photos: 3895-13

Aerial Mosaics: N 166/8

Aim: To seek the protection of an area of land so as to protect its scenic values.

Land and Area: Part Section 10, Block IX Mt Adams Survey District. Area: approximately 2 hectares.

Location: An inland block of land 500 metres north west of the end of Pahaoa Road at the Pahaoa River mouth.

Status: Freehold.

Vegetation: Karaka trees - scattered and in a grove.

Access: Via Pahaoa Road 45 km from Martinborough.

Utilisation: An integral part of the farm.

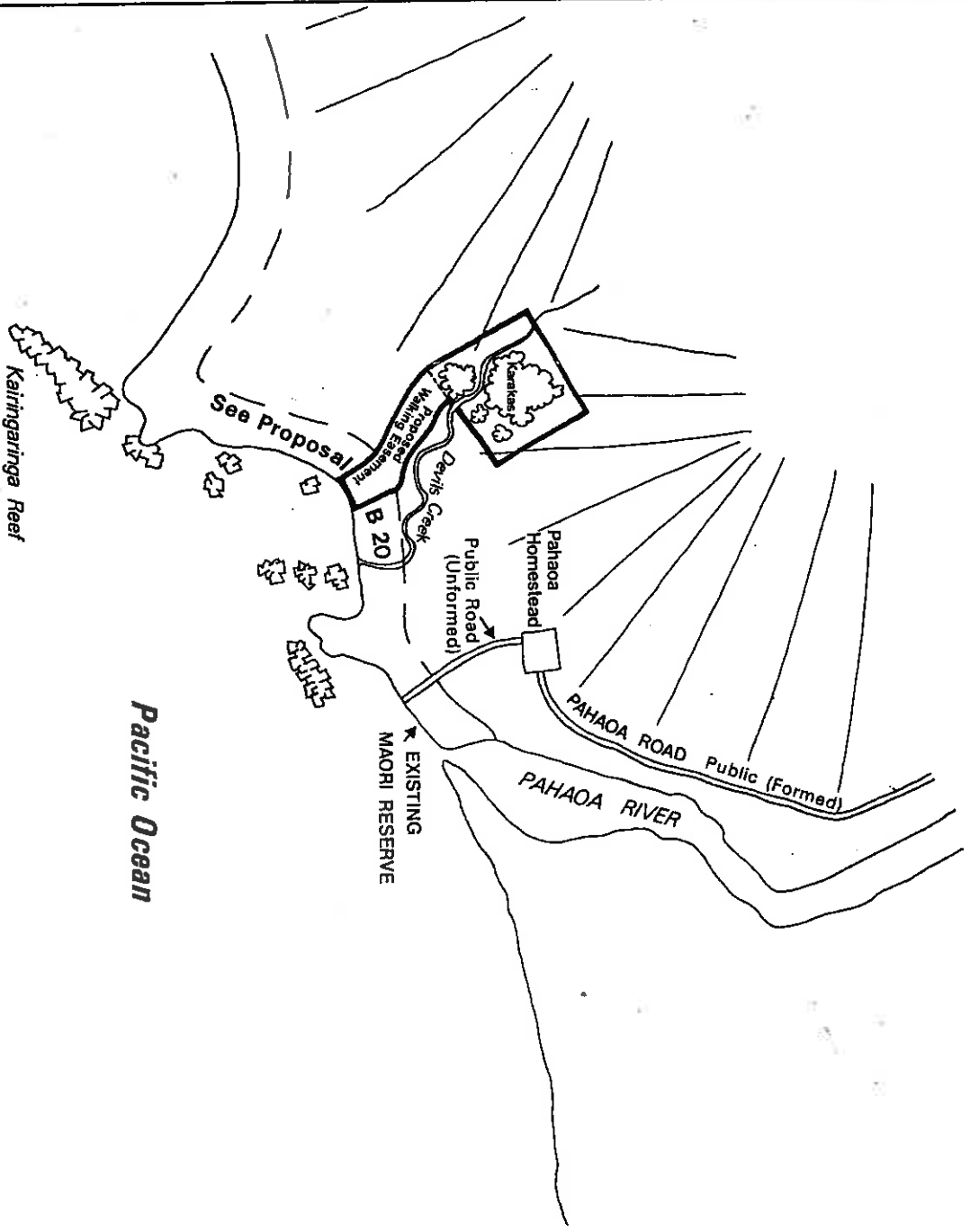
General: A gully made scenically pleasing by a grove of karaka trees and a waterfall. Although sheltered in places, the grassland is grazed. A fenced shelter belt of karakas extends from this proposal to the coastline. An easement giving public walking access from the coastline along the shelter belt to the karaka grove would be desirable.




Significance: Regional.


Priority: Medium

Action: The purpose of this proposal be discussed with the owners with the aim of achieving some form of protection and access to the karaka grove.

FEATHERSTON COUNTY COASTAL RESERVES INVESTIGATION



- KEY**
- Vegetation 
 - Rocks 
 - Proposal Boundary 

 Not to scale
SKETCH ONLY

Devils Creek
Karaka Grove

PROPOSAL
B17

PROPOSAL B18 - PAHAOA WEST BANK PA SITE

Aerial Photos: 3895-13

Aerial Mosaics: N 166/8

Aim: To seek the protection of an area of land so as to protect its historic values.

Land and Area: Part Section 10, Block IX Mt Adams Survey District. Area: approximately 2 hectares.

Location: Approximately 200 metres north west of Pahaoa Road, 500' metres from the end of the road.

Status: Freehold.

Vegetation: Pasture.

Access: Via Pahaoa Road.

Utilisation: Farmland.

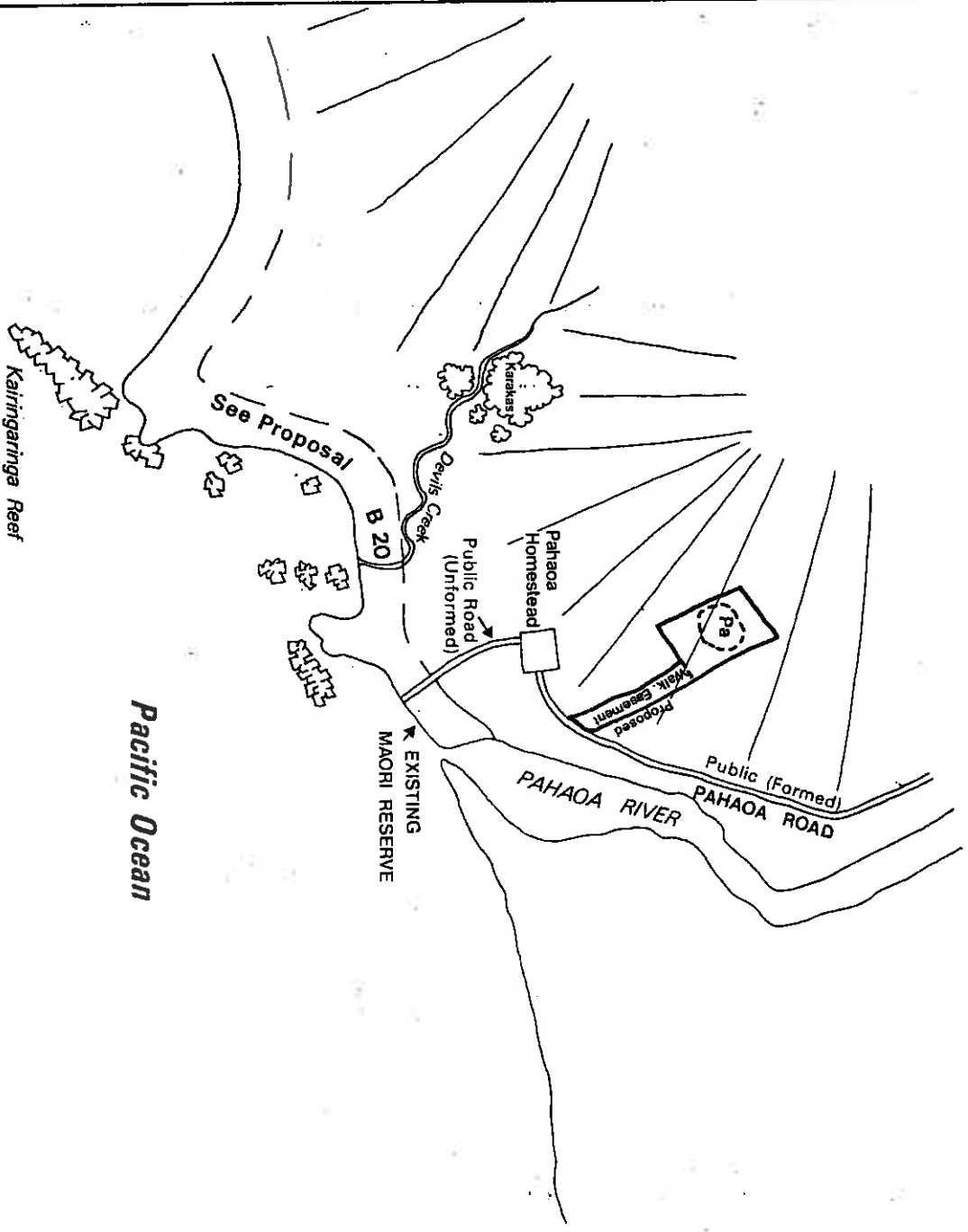
General: Situated on the hillslopes above Pahaoa Road. NOT easily identifiable from the road.




Significance: Local

Priority: Medium

Action: To discuss protection of access to the pa site with the landowner, Featherston County Council and the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

FEATHERSTON COUNTY COASTAL RESERVES INVESTIGATION



- KEY**
- Vegetation 
 - Rocks 
 - Proposal Boundary 

 Not to scale
SKETCH ONLY

Pahaoa West Bank
Pa Site

PROPOSAL
B18

PROPOSAL B19 - PAHAOA RIVER MOUTH, EASTBANK

Aerial Photos: 3895-14

Aerial Mosaics: N 166/8

Aim: To seek protection of an area of coastal land for recreation purposes.

Land and Area: Part 2B1C, Part 2B1B and all of 2B1A, Pahaoa Block, Pahaoa District.

Location: An area of flat land at the mouth of the Pahaoa River (eastbank) extending 1 km up the river and 1 km along the coast.

Status: Maori land.

Vegetation: Pasture.

Access: A new vehicle bridge gives access to the eastern bank of the Pahaoa River. However, the legal road is only formed for a short distance and access is then by foot along the coast.

Utilisation: Farmland, informal recreation.

General: No provision exists for parking, recreation, or access along the coast. A few baches have been built close to the foreshore. This area would provide access to the river estuary and attractive rock formations and coves around Glendhu Rocks.

The area is mainly grassy flat with rock outcrops and shingle.

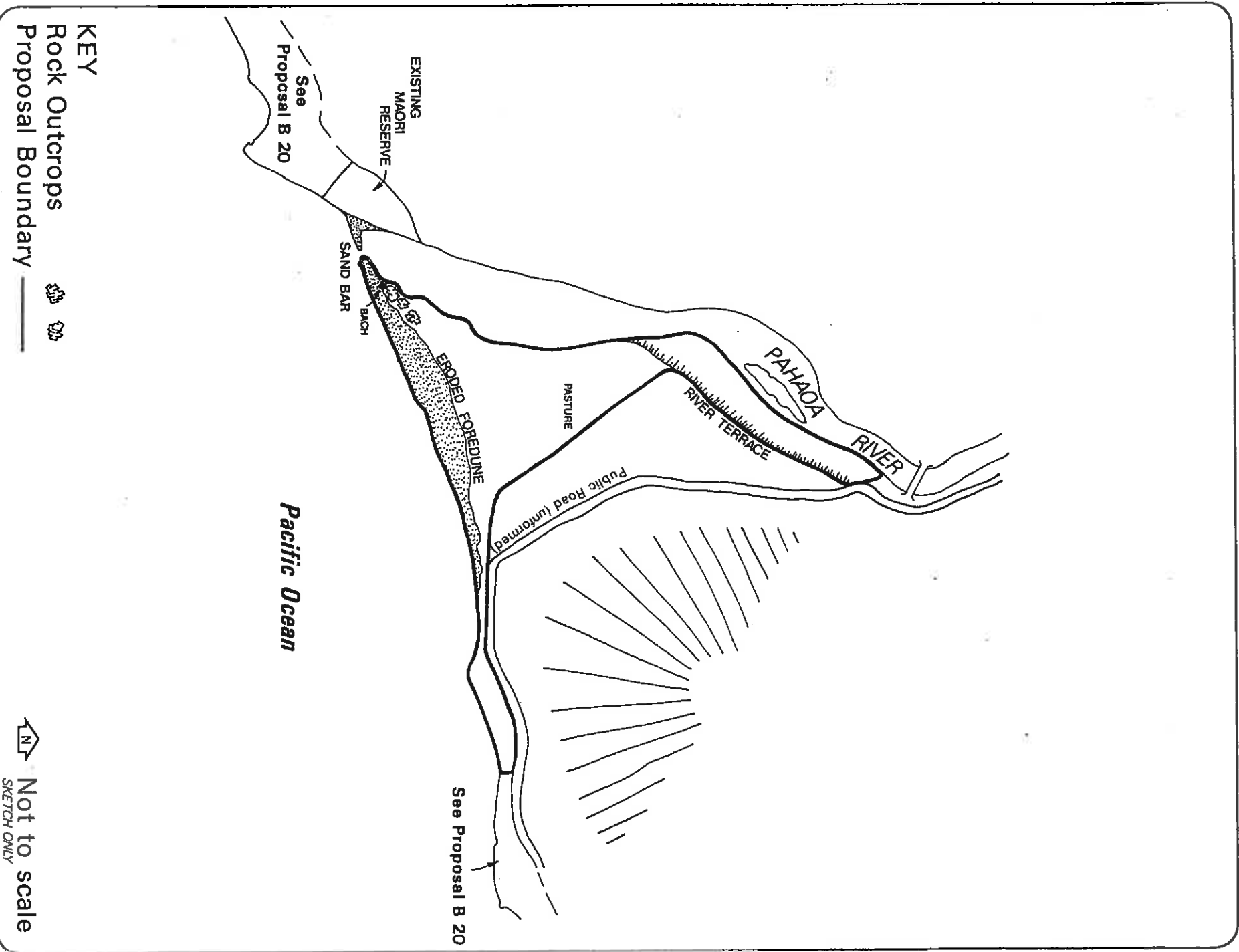
The foreshore has been designated in the district scheme as proposed esplanade reserve.

Significance: Regional

Priority: Medium

Action: To approach the owners and Featherston County Council to discuss the proposal and possible control measures to protect the features of this coastline and estuary.

FEATHERSTON COUNTY COASTAL RESERVES INVESTIGATION



KEY
Rock Outcrops  
Proposal Boundary 

 Not to scale
SKETCH ONLY

Pahaoa River Mouth
- East Bank

PROPOSAL
B19

PROPOSAL B20 - COASTAL EASEMENT

Aerial Photos: 4749-8/9/10/11/12, 4748-12/13/14, 4747-14/15,
264-20/21/22/23, 263-22/23/24/25, 3897-7/8/9,
3896-9/10, 3895-12/13/14/15, 3894-14/15/16/17/18,
3893-17/18.

Aerial Mosaics: N 169/1, N166/7,8,5.

Aim: To set aside a strip of coast as reserve.

Land and Area: Part Block XI Kaiwaka Survey District
Part Block VII, V, VI, II, III, IV Opuawe Survey District
Part Block XVI Waipawa Survey District
Part Block VIII, IX, VI and Part VII Mt Adams Survey
District
Area: 45 km x 40 metres = 180 hectares approximately.

Location: A strip of coastal land stretching from the Waitarekeke Stream (midway between Te Rakau Whaka Matakū Point and White Rock) to Wainianga Stream (approximately 8 km north of the Pahaoa River mouth).

Status: Freehold, Crown, Maori.

Vegetation: Various: pasture, scrubland, rocky shoreline.

Access: Formed and unformed legal road; private vehicle tracks; By boat all along the coast.

Utilisation: Mainly farming.

General: Featherston County Council has designated a proposed esplanade reserve along the complete length of this coastline.

History: This proposal was also included in the 1968 Coastal Reserves Investigation.

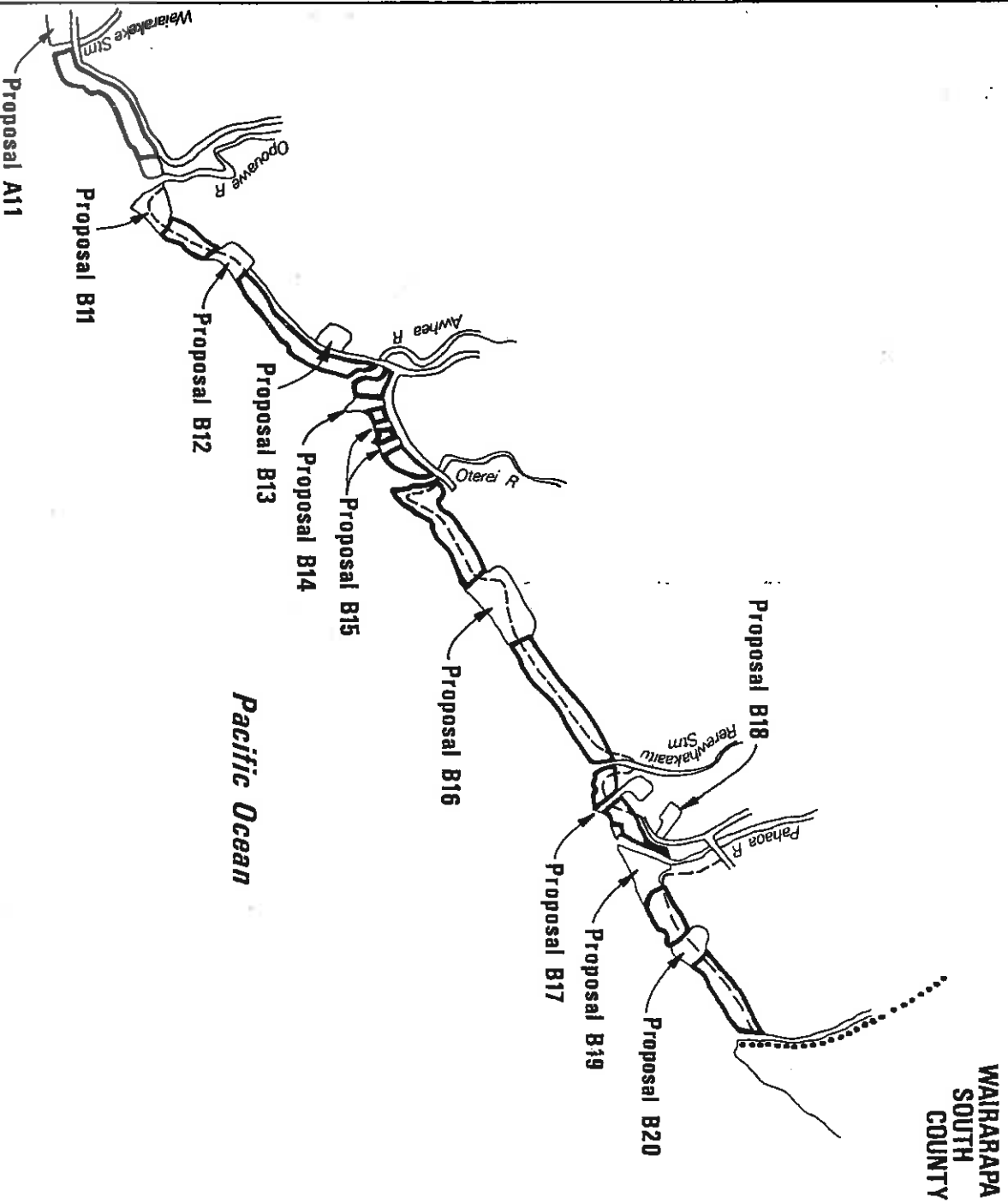
Significance: Regional.

Priority: High

- Action:
1. To maintain liaison with the Featherston County Council and to seek continued recognition of the need for public access along the coastline in subsequent reviews of the council's district scheme.
 2. To refer the proposal to the Wellington District Walkway Committee for investigation into the lack of and need for access along the coastline.

FEATHERSTON COUNTY COASTAL RESERVES INVESTIGATION

KEY
Proposal Boundary —
↗ N Not to scale
SKETCH ONLY



Coastal Easement - Zone 2

PROPOSAL
B20