



**Proposed  
Regional  
Park**

**TANGIMOANA**



department of lands and survey

wellington - march 1975

Report on a  
PROPOSED REGIONAL PARK

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## 1. BACKGROUND

The Department of Lands & Survey is progressively investigating the whole coastline of the country to assess potential reserve requirements, and to recommend and initiate action to ensure adequate reservation for the future. The study is particularly concerned with areas that have potential for recreation, but also considers areas with value for scenic, scientific, archaeological, historic and wildlife purposes.

This report investigates the creation of a large regional coastal park in the vicinity of Tangimoana, with the Rangitikei River mouth as its focus and major physical feature.

## 2. THE NEED FOR A REGIONAL PARK

It has become apparent that there is a need for large regional recreation areas, usually associated with major urban areas, to perform a function that is not filled by either national parks or local reserves. There has been a tendency for reserve areas close to cities to emphasise the high-density forms of recreation. There will be an increasing need in the future to provide facilities that will permit dispersal of recreational activities within day-tripping range of the cities.

With the expansion of population in the Manawatu area, particularly in Palmerston North, and with the increased mobility of population due to greater car ownership, better cars, better roads and a general increase in affluence, there will be a greater demand on coastal facilities in this area. The improved road access between Pahiatua and Palmerston North will probably increase the recreational use of the western coastline by people from the Wairarapa.

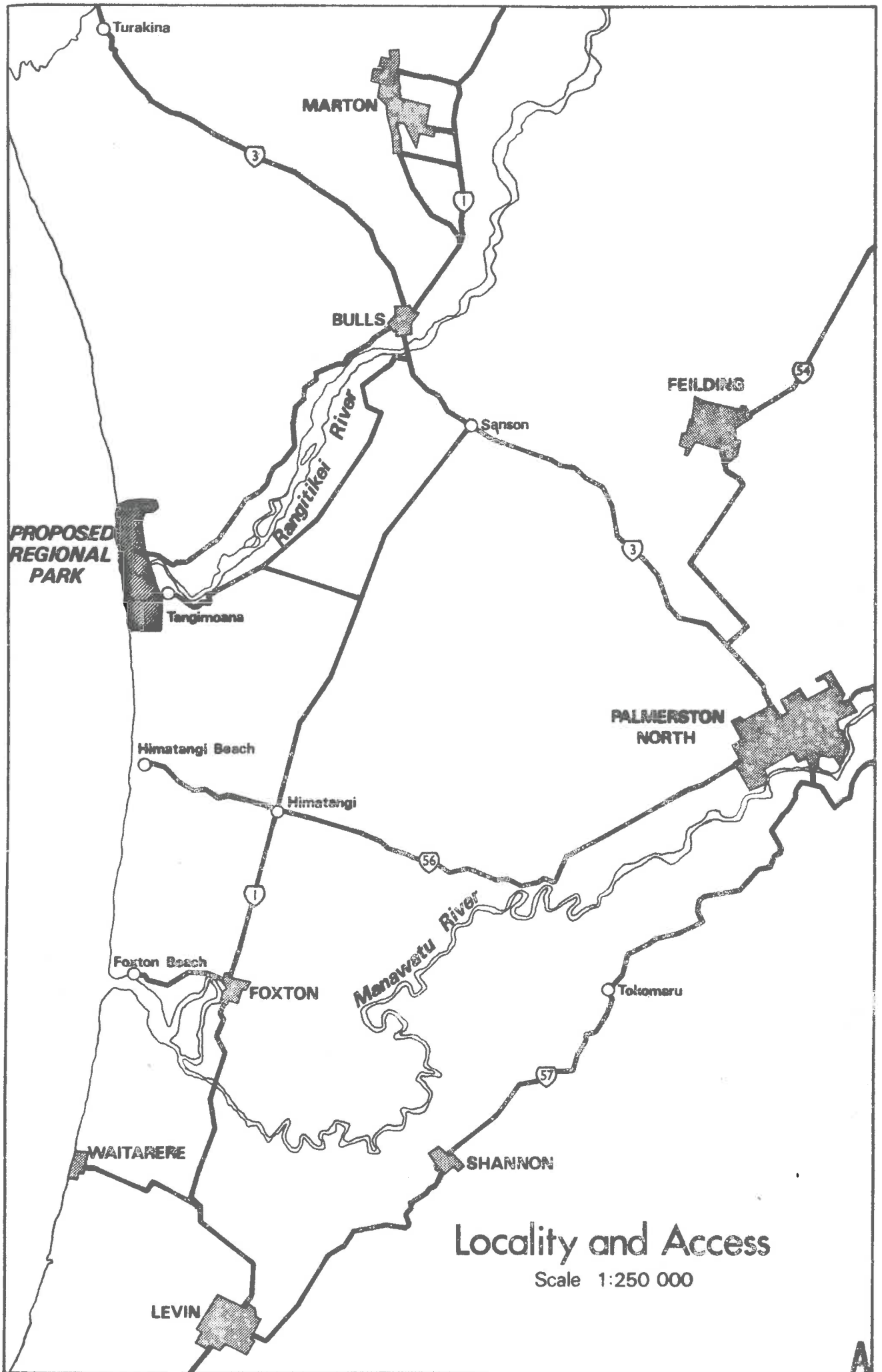
The section of coastline most accessible to these sections of the population lies between the Manawatu and Turakina Rivers. Within this area, the Rangitikei River mouth and adjacent land offer the greatest potential for provision of coastal recreational facilities of a regional nature.

This land has the added advantage of being primarily in public ownership, thus being more easily available for park purposes.

Map A shows the locality of the proposed park.

### 3. LAND TENURE & AREA

The area selected for a regional park and the land tenure, are shown on Map B. All the land is in public ownership, either as Crown Land, County land, or as land taken for soil conservation and river control purposes.



# Locality and Access

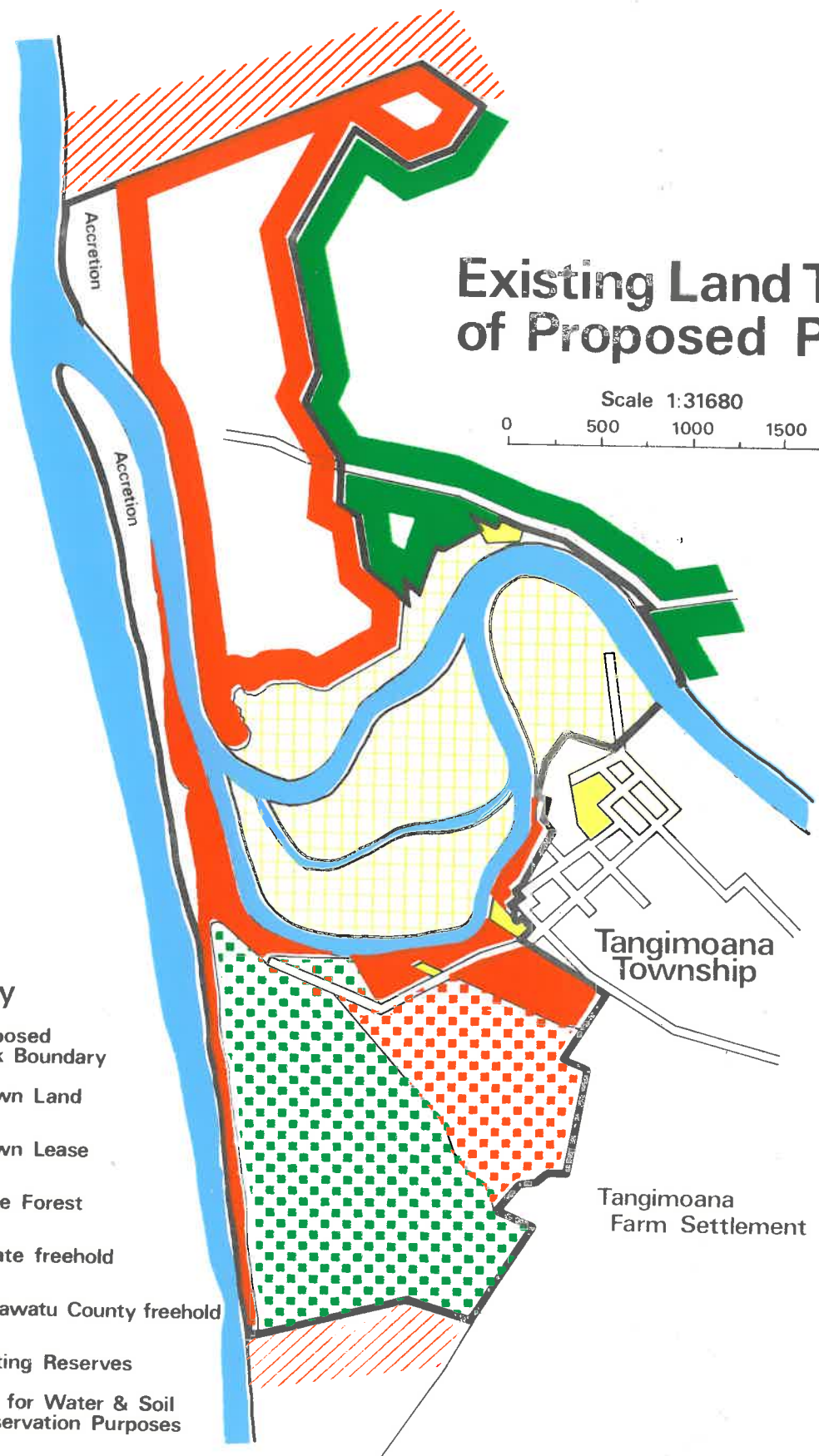
Scale 1:250 000



# Existing Land Tenure of Proposed Park

Scale 1:31680  
0 500 1000 1500 2000m

- Key**
-  Proposed Park Boundary
  -  Crown Land
  -  Crown Lease
  -  State Forest
  -  Private freehold
  -  Manawatu County freehold
  -  Existing Reserves
  -  Held for Water & Soil Conservation Purposes





The area is approximately 1000 hectares.

4. TOPOGRAPHY

The topography of the area is shown on Map C.

The natural course of the river as it nears the sea follows large meanders. The last of these meanders has been bypassed by an artificial cut with the result that some of the old meander course is dry, with the remainder forming a lagoon. The land within the old meander course varies from swampy wetland to dry land several feet above water level. It is intersected by subsidiary water channels.

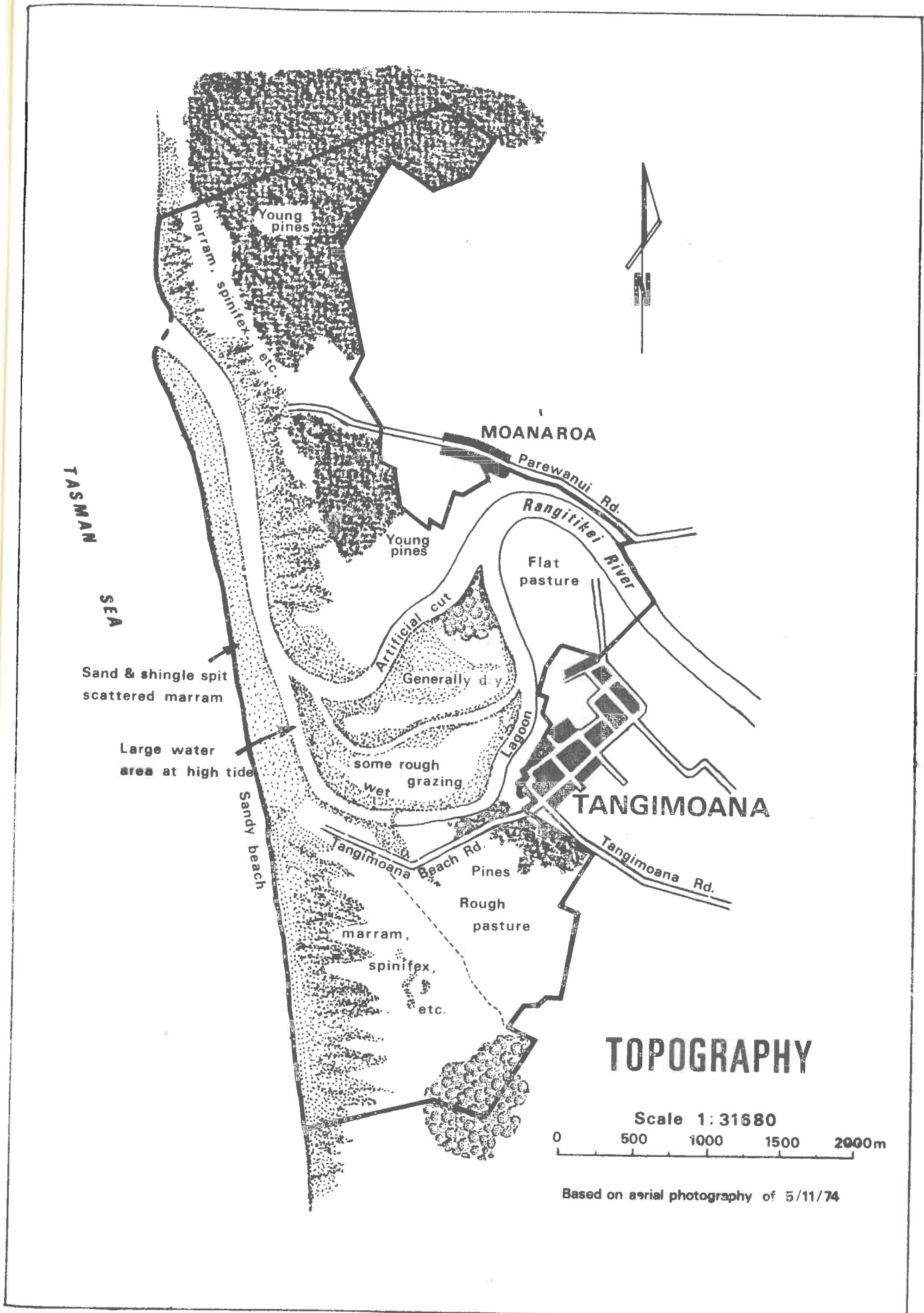
From the seaward end of the artificial cut, the river flows northwards almost parallel to the coast, and separated from it by a sand and shingle spit. This has created an area of calm inland water of considerable size, particularly at high tide.

Further inland, an area of flat land is enclosed within the next meander and adjoins Tanigmoana. The land to the north and south of the river estuary consists of sand dunes, some partly eroded. The beach is wide and sandy.

An important feature is that there is about 20 km of shoreline to river, lagoons and sea within the boundaries.

5. ACCESS

Access to the area is by good sealed roads on both sides of the Rangitikei River. On the northern side



TASMAN  
SEA

Sand & shingle spit  
scattered marram

Large water  
area at high tide

Sandy beach

marram, spinifex, etc.

Young pines

Young pines

Artificial cut  
Generally dry

some rough  
wet grazing

MOANAROA

Parewanui Rd.  
Rangitikei River

Flat  
pasture

Lagoon

TANGIMOANA

Tangimoana Beach Rd.

Pines  
Rough  
pasture

Tangimoana Rd.

marram,  
spinifex,  
etc.

# TOPOGRAPHY

Scale 1: 31680

0 500 1000 1500 2000m

Based on aerial photography of 5/11/74



Parewanui Road leads to the beach through Moana Roa township, which is about 51 km from Palmerston North. On the southern side Tangimoana Road leads to Tangimoana township, which is about 39 km from Palmerston North by the shortest route. From Tangimoana, a road leads directly to the beach.

The township of Tangimoana abuts the proposed reserve, and access could be developed at various points within the township.

#### 6. VEGETATION

The dune areas have a general cover of dune grasses, with some scrub varieties occurring. The wet estuary area has a variety of grass and rushes. There is a large area of young exotic pines north of the river and some areas of older pines near Tangimoana township. These older pines provide good shelter, which is almost non-existent on the western coastline.

#### 7. ECOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

In addition to its recreational potential, the river estuary has a high ecological value. In common with a few other major estuaries on this coast it is a valuable habitat and food source for a variety of wildlife. Bird species apparent on a casual inspection included gulls, shags, herons, stilts, oystercatchers, terns, duck and swans. Being almost completely enclosed by the river channel, lagoons and sea, the estuary area does not suffer undue disturbance

by activities such as dune buggies and trail bikes.

Major river estuaries such as this fulfill an ecological function which cannot be achieved by other non-estuarine areas, no matter how large.

#### 8. PRESENT DEVELOPMENT

No part of the proposed park is at present intensely developed, and some portions are completely unused. Parts of the estuary and the area adjoining the township are being grazed. Some areas have been planted in exotic trees. Considerable areas at the northern and southern ends of the proposed reserve consist of undeveloped sand dunes.

#### 9. FUTURE DEVELOPMENT & USE

The large area proposed has the potential to provide for a variety of active and passive recreational activities, as the need for such facilities grows with population. It is an opportunity to provide areas for space-consuming activities such as dune buggies, trail bikes, pony trails, and golf with a minimum of conflict. Other possible activities include fishing, swimming, surfing, picnicing, camping, walking, canoeing, boating, birdwatching, and flounder netting. It would also be possible to provide facilities for more organised sports such as tennis and football if this seems desirable.

It may be that the total area is not needed for recreational purposes in the immediate future, and that parts of the reserve can be used for other purposes, such as farming and forestry, for an interim period. It may be possible to derive some revenue from these areas as a contribution towards development costs.

#### 10. MANAGEMENT

Although the whole area is publicly owned at present, it is subject to very fragmented control and falls within both Manawatu County and Rangitikei County. Ideally, the whole area should acquire a uniform reserve status and be placed under the control of a suitable special authority. In practice, this may be difficult because of the specialised interests which exist. In particular, the land held for water and soil conservation purposes may need to retain its present status.

The park concept would not be invalidated by such a failure to invest the whole area with formal reserve status, provided that the controlling authorities are prepared to commit the land for recreational use or ecological protection within the limitations imposed by their specialised interests, and to participate in a unified park management system.

Certain other bodies would have strong interests in the area and should participate in park management. Examples are the Palmerston North City Council and the Wildlife Branch of the Department of Internal Affairs.

Following a decision to create the park, a comprehensive landscape, planning and scientific study should be undertaken. On the basis of this study, a management and development plan should be prepared before any significant development is commenced.

#### 11. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That all Crown Land within the proposed boundary be set aside for reserve.
2. That the Manawatu County Council commit the land under its control to inclusion in the proposed park.
3. That investigations be made into the means by which land at present held for soil conservation and river control can be included in the park.
4. That the lease of Section 789 be terminated at its expiry in 1986 and that it be set aside for reserve.
5. That a controlling authority be appointed with representatives from bodies with interests in the proposed park.

#### 12. CONCLUSION

This area provides an opportunity to create a facility of high recreational and ecological value. It is of

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regional significance and its importance will increase.

Because the land is in public ownership, the proposal can be implemented with a minimum of direct costs and administrative problems. The opportunity should be taken now to ensure that the area's recreational potential is fully utilised.