

Reserve Management Plan Review

TO Coromandel-Colville Community Board
FROM Joy Hames - Consultant
DATE 2 February 2018
SUBJECT Reserve Management Plan Review

1 Purpose of Report

For the Coromandel-Colville Community Board to initiate a review of the Coromandel/Colville Ward Reserve Management Plan 2007.

2 Background

Under the Reserves Act 1977, Councils are required to prepare reserve management plans for all reserves for which they are the administering body, except local purpose reserves. These plans are to be kept under continuous review so that the plan is adapted to changing circumstances or new information. Guidance from the Department of Conservation suggests that plans should generally be reviewed at a minimum of 10 year intervals.

The Coromandel/Colville Ward Reserve Management Plan was adopted in May 2007 (**Attachment A**).

Reserve management plans may be prepared for individual reserves or groups of reserves. The Thames Coromandel District Council plans have been prepared as omnibus plans for each community board area in two parts: the first part consists of the context and the overarching policies and objectives which apply to all reserves; the second part contains information about individual reserves, their classification, their specific management issues, any specific policies related to the reserves and future development intentions.

When the plans were first prepared the policy and objectives sections of the plans were largely the same but, as the plans were prepared over a two year period there were some relatively minor differences reflecting better information. The Tairua-Pauanui and Whangamata reserve management plans were reviewed 2013-2014 and again, while there have been some changes made from to the original general policies and objectives these are largely to reflect updates that were needed because of other changes - e.g. new bylaws.

As the Council has approved the review of all of the current reserve management plans, the opportunity has been identified to conduct one comprehensive review of the general policies and objectives for all of the reserve management plans and have one general reserves management policies and objectives document. This will be much more efficient than considering the same matters within each review (particularly from a consultation point of view) and will support consistency of overall policy.

Taking this approach does not in any way remove local decision making. Where there are particular local reserves issues, specific policy will be developed to respond to them. As is the case with the present general policies and objectives, if any specific policies for specific reserves or groups of reserves are inconsistent with the general policies, the specific policies take precedence.

At the time of writing this report, the Council had yet to consider a proposal to initiate a General Policies Reserve Management Plan process. This matter will be decided at the next council meeting 20 February 2018. Should Council approve the development of a General Policies Reserve Management Plan, the review of the Coromandel/Colville Ward

Reserve Management Plan will focus on Document 2 Individual Reserve Management Plans.

3 Issue

The Coromandel-Colville Community are recommended to commence a review of the Coromandel-Colville Ward Reserve Management Plan. This will trigger the public notification of the Board's intention to review and staff will call for suggestions to the Reserve Management Plan on behalf of the Board.

4 Discussion

The minimum process for completing a reserve management plan (including a substantive review of a reserve management plan) is specified in the Reserves Act 1977. In summary it requires that the Council:

- notifies the community of its intention to prepare (or review) a reserve management plan and calls for suggestions;
- prepares a draft reserve management plan, including consideration of community suggestions and adopts and releases the draft plan for community consultation
- hears submissions on the draft plan and considers verbal and written submissions
- prepares an amended reserve management plan after consideration of the submissions.
- adopts and publishes the final reserve management plan.

The first step is for public notice to be given of the intention to review the reserve management plan and to invite any suggestions from any interested parties.

While it is not a direct requirement of the Reserves Act, it is also proposed that the consultation and engagement process on the review includes a reference group of community members to assist with identifying and developing responses to local reserves issues.

Key Issues for the review of Document 2 Individual Reserve Plans

Individual reserve management plans may need to be prepared for any new reserves that are being used by the community. Additionally, the reserves with these plans already in place also need to be reviewed to either confirm that the management issues identified are still relevant or to prepare new plans. The following picture shows the format of the information to be compiled for the individual reserves management plans.

Reserve Name – what the reserve is known as

Reserve Classification	Reserve Act classification e.g. Recreation, Scenic, Local Purpose Reserve (LPR)	Area	Size of reserve in hectares and square metres
Location	Actual / approximate street or road address	ID Number	TCDC Land valuation number relating to this parcel/s of land
Current State	Reserve category and how it is currently managed	Legal Description	Land title description
Future Use	Reserve category and how it will be managed in the future		Lists any NZ Gazette notices in reference to this reserve
Asset Registry		Leases and Licences	
Details what Council assets are located in this reserve		Details any particular leases for this reserve area and the length and expiry date of this lease	



Aerial map of reserve identifying parcel boundaries of the reserve.

Other pictures may include views of the reserve or particular features.

Background

- Identifies any known background to the formation of this reserve and historical associations.

Reserve Issues

- Details any particular issues in relation to this reserve.

Reserve Management Policy

- Policies that relate to this particular reserve in conjunction with the generic objections and policies.

Proposed Development	Cost Estimate	Funding	Priority
Identifies proposed development for this reserve area			

Priority Key – when the proposed development may be undertaken
 ST (Short Term) - Action completed within 2 years
 LT (Long Term) - Action commenced after 4 years
 C (Commenced) - Action has commenced
 MT (Medium Term) - Action completed within 2 - 4 years
 O (Ongoing) - Action is carried out on a regular basis for the life of this Plan of Management
 CP (Completed) - Action has been carried out

Co-governance of reserves

As the Crown advances settlements with iwi of breaches of Te Tiriti of Waitangi/ the Treaty of Waitangi some settlements relate to crown reserves which will now be governed by iwi or co-governed by iwi and the Council. In these cases, these reserves must be excluded from the group of reserves being considered within the omnibus reserve management plan.

The Patukirikiri Recreation Reserve falls into this category as it is part of the cultural redress proposed by the Crown to Te Patukirikiri in a deed of settlement initialled 5 August 2017. A separate reserve management plan will need to be prepared for this reserve through a process established jointly by iwi and Council post-settlement.

Reserve ownership and classification

In order for reserves to be included in a draft reserves management plan, they must first be formally classified. It was apparent at the time that the original reserve management plans were completed that there were a large number of issues with Council's ownership information about the reserves.

In addition to the research to establish ownership status, follow-up of the issues found will be needed. This includes reporting to Council so it can resolve certain reserve classifications, researching and reaching agreement on ownership with other landowners where questions of ownership arise (e.g. Department of Conservation), and reclassifying where mistakes are found (e.g. recreation reserves that are actually road reserves or vice versa). Once the Council has resolved on any changes, finalising formal classification includes gazettal of the classification and advising the Minister of Conservation.

Timeframes

The Coromandel-Colville Reserves Management Plan timetable is set out in the following table:

Coromandel-Colville Reserves Management Plan review timetable	
Date	Detail
Feb 2018	Community Board approves plan review
March 2018	Advertise intention to review plan and call for suggestions
March 2018	Set up community reference group
March - May 2018	Review current reserve plans, conduct community engagement and prepare new plans
March-May 2018	Review reserves classifications; report changes required to Community Board and Council
June 2018	Workshop draft plan with Community Board and recommend draft for consultation to Council
July 2018	Council approves draft plan for public consultation
August-Sept 2018	Community consultation
October 2018	Hearings
November 2018	Update draft plan and report to Community Board for recommendation to Council
December 2018	Council adopts final plan

General Policies Reserve Management Plan

As is noted above Council is considering a proposal to complete a single general policies reserve management plan. While this work will be separate from the review of the specific reserves in Coromandel-Colville, it is intended that the two reserve management plans are consulted on simultaneously as this will assist understanding of the whole process and intent of each document.

5 Suggested Resolution(s)

That the Coromandel-Colville Community Board:

1. Receives the 'Reserve Management Plan Review' report, dated 2 February 2018.
2. Undertakes to review the Coromandel-Colville Ward Reserve Management Plan in accordance with Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977.

References-Tabled/Agenda Attachments

Attachment A *May 2007 - Coromandel-Colville adopted Reserve Management Plan*
(This document has been circulated prior to the meeting)