

Reserve Management Plan Review

TO Thames Community Board
FROM Joy Hames - Consultant
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DATE 29 March 2018
SUBJECT **Reserve Management Plan Review**

1 Purpose of Report

For the Thames Community Board to initiate a review of the Thames and Thames Coast Reserve Management Plan 2006.

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 Thames and Thames Coast Reserve Management Plan for the reserves in the Thames ward was adopted December 2006 (**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 in 2013-2014. Again, while there have been some changes made to the original general policies and objectives these are largely to reflect updates that were needed because of other changes such as new bylaws.

As this project is to review all of the current reserve management plans, the opportunity was identified to conduct a comprehensive review of the general policies and objectives for all of the reserve management plans and to prepare a single general reserves management policies and objectives document. Council approved this approach at its meeting 20 February 2018. 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 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.

The review of the Thames and Thames Coast Reserve Management Plan will focus on

3 Issue

The Thames Community Board is asked to approve the review of the Thames and Thames Coast Reserve Management Plan. This will trigger public notification of the Board's "intention to review" with a public notice calling for suggestions about the Reserve Management Plans to be placed in the Hauraki Herald.

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.

Key Issues for the review of Document 2 Individual Reserve Plans New Reserves

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 parcels 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

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



Aerial map of reserve identifying parcel boundaries of the reserve.

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

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 may need to be excluded from the group of reserves being considered within the omnibus reserve management plan.

"Te Rauwhitiora" - part of Te Mata North Reserves, "Te Waha o Te Parata" - part of Te Puru Beachfront Reserves, "Wai-ō-umu" - part of Waiomu Domain and Reserves and "Waipatukahu" - part of Tapu Domain and Beachfront Reserves are all part of the cultural redress to Ngāti Tamaterā agreed by the Crown in a deed of settlement initialled on 20 September 2017. After ratification by the iwi, the deed will be signed and will require legislation to take effect. A separate reserve management plan will need to be prepared for these reserves through a process established jointly by iwi and Council post-settlement and as such are proposed to be excluded from the current review process.

Waikawau Reserve is also part of proposed cultural redress for Ngāti Tamaterā which they will manage and control 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 Thames Reserves Management Plan timetable is set out in the following table:

Mercury Bay Reserve Management Plans review timetable	
Date	Detail
April 2018	Community Board approves plan review
April 2018	Advertise intention to review plan and call for suggestions
May 2018	Set up community reference group
May - October 2018	Review current reserve plans, conduct community engagement and prepare new plans
May- October 2018	Direction setting workshops with Community Board - responding to issues on local reserves
May - October 2018	Review reserves classifications; report changes required to Community Board and Council
October - November 2018	Workshop draft plans with Community Board and approval of drafts for consultation
December 2018 - March 2019	Community consultation
April 2019	Hearings

May 2019	Update draft plan and report to Community Board for recommendation to Council
June 2019	Council adopts final plan

General Policies Reserve Management Plan

As is noted above, Council has resolved to complete a single general policies reserve management plan. This plan is expected to be adopted by December 2018 and it will inform the development of the individual reserve plans.

5 Consultation

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. This has been the way development of the plans has been approached in the past and this has been well received.

6 Suggested Resolution(s)

That the Thames Community Board:

1. Receives the 'Reserve Management Plan Review' report, dated 28 March 2018.
2. Undertakes to review the Thames and Thames Coast Reserve Management Plan in accordance with Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977.
3. Approves the establishment of a reference group comprising community and community board members to assist with developing potential responses to local reserve issues.

References-Tabled/Agenda Attachments

Attachment A *Thames and Thames Coast Reserve Management Plan - Document 1: Objectives and Policies*

Attachment B *Thames and Thames Coast Reserve Management Plan - Document 2: Individual Reserve Plans*

The attachments have been circulated under separate cover