

3.6 Draft Coromandel-Colville Reserves Management Plan

TO	Coromandel-Colville Community Board
FROM	Derek Thompson - Manager Community Facilities Coreen Adamson - Consultant
DATE	11 September 2018
SUBJECT	Draft Coromandel-Colville Reserves Management Plan

1 Purpose of Report

For the Coromandel-Colville Community Board to recommend the release of the draft Coromandel-Colville Reserve Management Plan for public consultation.

2 Background

Under the Reserves Act 1977, Councils are required to prepare reserve management plans for all reserves, except local purpose reserves, for which they are the administering body. 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 and Colville Ward Reserve Management Plan was adopted in May 2007.

Reserve management plans may be prepared for individual reserves or groups of reserves. The Coromandel District and Colville Ward Reserve Management Plan was prepared as an omnibus plan in two parts:

- document one, set out the context and the overarching policies and objectives which applied to all reserves in the ward
- document two, set out information about individual reserves, their classification, specific management issues, any specific policies related to the reserves and future development intentions

Council resolved on 20 February 2018 to conduct one comprehensive review of the general policies and objectives for all of the reserve management plans prepare one general reserves management policies and objectives document.

The Coromandel-Colville Community Board resolved on 27 February 2018 to review the 2007 Coromandel and Colville Ward Reserve Management Plan, focusing on Document 2 - Individual Reserve Plans.

As required by the Reserves Act 1977 Council publicly signalled its intention to prepare a reserve management plan for reserves in the Coromandel-Colville ward in March and invited the community to make suggestions.

3 Issue

A draft Coromandel-Colville Reserve Management Plan has now been prepared, taking into consideration feedback received. The draft Coromandel-Colville Reserve Management Plan is included with this report as Attachment A.

The next step in the preparation of the Coromandel-Colville Reserve Management Plan is the public notification of the draft. In accordance with the Reserves Act 1977 the public consultation period must run for two months. Once this consultation period is complete, hearings must be held if any of the submitters wish to be heard.

4 Discussion

Section 41 of the Act sets out the requirements for management plans. Section 41 (3) requires that a management plan shall provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection, and preservation, as the case may require, and, to the extent that the administering body's resources permit, the development, as appropriate, of the reserve for the purposes for which it is classified. The minimum process for completing a reserve management plan (including a substantive review of a reserve management plan), as specified in section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977, is as follows, 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.

Call for suggestions

Council notified the community of its intention to prepare a Coromandel-Colville Reserve Management Plan and called for suggestions in March 2018. This was done by placing a public notice in the Hauraki Herald and on the Council website. Iwi and interested parties were directly informed of Councils intention to prepare a reserve management plan and invited to make suggestions.

Twenty-nine written suggestions were received in response to the call for suggestions. A summary of the suggestions received is included as Attachment B. Not all suggestions have been directly referenced in the draft management plan. Some of the suggestions were out of the scope of the plan review (e.g. would require change to another adopted policy, plan or regulation of Council), were considered through the Long Term Plan process, have been taken forward through other channels or were not feasible or practicable.

Preparation of the Coromandel-Colville Individual Reserve Plans

Individual management plans for each reserve were reviewed to confirm that the management issues identified are still relevant and to identify new management issues.

During the review of the reserve management plans for the Coromandel-Colville area, every property was investigated to determine its exact legal status in terms of the Land Transfer Act 1952 and the Reserves Act 1977. This process determined many of the reserves in the Coromandel-Colville area, which have been vested in Council, had not been classified. In order for reserves to be included in a draft reserves management plan, they must first be formally classified. This is a necessary process step to ensure that the management plan has full force and effect. The Coromandel-Colville Community Board resolved on 14 August 2018 to recommend that these reserves be classified in accordance with Section 16 (2) (a) of the Reserves Act 1977.

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. The Patukirikiri Recreation Reserve falls into this category as it is part of the cultural redress proposed by the Crown to Te Patukirikiri. Where reserves are subject to settlement processes public submissions will not be invited on the management plan for these reserves as a separate management plan will be prepared through a process established jointly by iwi and Council post-settlement.

Disposal of reserves

The draft management plan identifies a number of reserves which council may consider for disposal, subject to further investigation and the satisfactory conclusion of required statutory processes.

Reserves that have been vested and classified under the Reserves Act 1977 must have their classification status revoked before the land can be disposed of. The Reserves Act 1977 outlines a clear process for administering bodies to follow in revoking reserve status and selling reserve land, including community consultation requirements. The most common reasons for revocation and disposal of a reserve are that the land is no longer serving the needs of the community or is no longer fit-for-purpose, no longer provides significant long-term benefit to the community or is surplus to requirements.

Draft Coromandel-Colville Reserve Management Plan

All reserves are classified and normally held under the Reserves Act 1977. Under Section 16 of the Reserves Act (1977), it is mandatory that reserves are classified based on their purpose. The Act provides for eight different reserve classifications, these being:

- Local Purpose Reserves
- Government Purpose Reserves
- Recreation Reserves
- Historic Reserves
- Scenic Reserves 'A'
- Scenic Reserve 'B'
- Nature Reserves

While the Reserves Act 1977 provides the legal classification system for reserves, because it is high level, it has been found to have limited application and value for the planning and management of parks managed by local authorities. Council is adopting a framework that allows the reserves to be categorised according to their size, type of use and management focus. This framework has been developed by the New Zealand Recreation Association (NZRA) in consultation with the New Zealand parks sector and local councils. It has been in use since 2011 and was reviewed in 2017. The intent of the NZRA parks categories framework is to establish an agreed set of lower level parks categories and associated definitions which can be used consistently across the industry. The NZRA park categories are as follows:

- Sports and recreation
- Neighbourhood
- Public gardens
- Nature
- Cultural heritage
- Outdoor adventure

- Civic
- Recreation and ecological linkages

In addition to the mandatory reserves act classifications, all of the individual reserves covered in Coromandel-Colville Reserve Management Plan have been categorised using the NZRA parks categories.

The draft Coromandel-Colville Reserve Management Plan has been structured according to the NZRA parks categories, as follows:

Introductory sections: including an outline of the purpose of the plan, relationship with the Thames-Coromandel General Policies Reserve Management Plan, overview of the plan and reserve management and use.

Individual reserve management plans sections: For each reserve its legal description, current formal occupation and use of the reserve is described and the specific issues and site-specific policies that apply to the reserve are outlined. The reserves covered by this management plan are presented according to park category as follows:

- **Civic:** individual management plans for reserves that are typically provided within or adjacent to business districts and developed to provide a space for social gatherings, meeting places or relaxation and enjoyment.
- **Cultural heritage:** individual management plans for reserves that protect the built cultural and historical environment, and/or provide for heritage conservation, education, commemoration, mourning and remembrance.
- **Neighbourhood – community:** individual management plans for reserves developed and used for informal recreation and sporting activities, play and family based activities and social and community activities.
- **Outdoor adventure:** individual management plans for reserves developed and used for recreation and sporting activities and associated built facilities that require a large scale, forested, rural or peri-urban environment.
- **Nature:** individual management plans for reserves that offer the experience and/or protection of the natural environment, containing native bush, coastal margins, forestry, wetlands, riparian areas and water bodies.
- **Recreation and ecological linkages:** individual management plans for reserves that are often linear in nature, providing pedestrian and cycle linkages, wildlife corridors and access to water margins. Given the large number of reserves classified as recreation and ecological linkages, this section of the plan has been organised by area:
 - Colville area – recreation and ecological linkages
 - Coromandel area – recreation and ecological linkages
- **Appendix A: an overview of the reserves classifications set out in the Reserves Act 1977.**
- **Appendix B: a list of reserves which are not actively maintained by Council.**
- **Appendix C: Non-reserve – other areas maintained as open space: other open space areas that are not reserves, under the Reserves Act 1977, but are managed in a manner consistent with reserves. These areas may be road or stream reserve.**

Public Consultation

The next step in the preparation of the Coromandel-Colville Reserve Management Plan is the public notification of the draft. In accordance with the Reserves Act 1977 the public consultation period must run for two months. Once this consultation period is complete, hearings must be held if any of the submitters wish to be heard.

Public notification of the draft Coromandel-Colville Reserve Management Plan will be made with a public notice calling for submissions to the Reserve Management Plan in the Hauraki Herald. In addition to notification in the Hauraki Herald:

- a hardcopy of the draft management plan must be available for viewing at the Coromandel service centre;
- all those who made suggestions and any identified interested parties will be notified directly that the plan is open for consultation;
- the draft management plan and a submission form will be available on the council website;
- information about the public consultation process, including a copy of the draft management plan, will be made available on the Council website;
- early in the public consultation period it is also planned to hold public open days to allow members of the public and interested parties to talk through the draft plan with staff and to provide feedback.

Once the submission period has closed and hearings have been held, the draft management plan will be amended to reflect hearings decisions. The final plan will then be reported to the Board for approval.

The timetable for public consultation and the next steps for the development of the Coromandel-Colville Reserve Management Plan is set out in the table below.

Coromandel-Colville Reserves Management Plan timetable	
Indicative timing	Detail
28 September 2018	Community Board recommend draft for public consultation
30 October 2018	Council approves draft plan for public consultation
November and December 2018	Community consultation
February 2019	Hearings
March 2019	Update draft plan and report to Community Board for recommendation to Council
April 2019	Council adopts final plan

General Policies Reserve Management Plan

As is noted above Council a single general policies reserve management plan is being prepared. 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 "Draft Coromandel-Colville Reserve Management Plan" report dated 11 September 2018.
2. Recommends the release of the draft Coromandel-Colville Reserve Management Plan for public consultation, in accordance with Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977.

References-Tabled/Agenda Attachments

Attachment A Draft Coromandel-Colville Reserve Management Plan

Attachment B Summary of the suggestions