

2012

WAINUI RESERVE

MANAGEMENT PLAN



Adopted by Council on 28/08/2012

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:	4
1.0 INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 WAINUI RESERVE	5
1.2 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT	5
1.3 PREVIOUS RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLANS	5
2.0 LEGISLATIVE AND PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK	6
2.1 RESERVES ACT 1977	6
2.2 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991	6
2.3 HISTORIC PLACES ACT 1993	6
2.4 LONG TERM PLAN AND ANNUAL PLAN	7
2.5 WAIKATO DISTRICT PLAN.....	7
2.6 RESERVES AND RECREATION POLICY.....	7
2.7 BYLAWS	7
3.0 DESCRIPTION OF WAINUI RESERVE	8
3.1 LEGAL DESCRIPTION AND RESERVE CLASSIFICATION	8
3.2 HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXT	9
3.3 GEOLOGY	9
3.4 SOIL	10
3.5 SAND DUNES	10
3.6 FLORA.....	11
3.7 WAINUI RESERVE BUSH PARK.....	11
3.8 WHANGAROA HARBOUR CARE NURSERY	12
3.9 TRUST WAIKATO RAGLAN SURF LIFESAVING CLUB	12
3.10 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AT THE RESERVE	12
3.11 RAGLAN COASTAL RESERVES ADVISORY COMMITTEE	13
3.12 DEVELOPMENT OF THE RESERVE.....	13
3.13 RESERVE USES	14
4.0 MANAGEMENT PLAN PROCESS	15
5.0 ISSUES	16
5.1 NETWORKING OF WALKWAYS	16
5.2 PARKING	16
5.3 SIGNAGE	16
5.4 WEED CONTROL.....	16
5.5 SUSTAINABLE LAND AND FARM MANAGEMENT PRACTICES	17
5.6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES.....	17
5.7 DUNE CARE.....	17
5.8 CAMPING	17
6.0 MANAGEMENT PLAN VISION	18
7.0 MANAGEMENT PLAN OBJECTIVES, POLICIES & IMPLEMENTATION	18
7.1 OBJECTIVE 1 - ECOLOGICAL VALUES AND RESTORATION	18
7.2 OBJECTIVE 2 - LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT	20
7.3 OBJECTIVE 3 - RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.....	21
7.4 OBJECTIVE 4 - ORGANISED EVENTS.....	22
7.5 OBJECTIVE 5 - RESERVE ACCESS	23
7.6 OBJECTIVE 6 - FACILITY DEVELOPMENT.....	23
7.7 OBJECTIVE 7 - RELATIONSHIP WITH TAINUI HAPŪ.....	24
7.8 OBJECTIVE 8 - HEALTH AND SAFETY	24
7.9 OBJECTIVE 9 - NOISE CONTROL.....	25

7.10	OBJECTIVE 10 - SIGNAGE	26
7.11	OBJECTIVE 11 - PARKING	27
7.12	OBJECTIVE 12 - COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES	27
7.13	OBJECTIVE 13 - FARM MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.....	28
7.14	OBJECTIVE 14 - ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES	28
7.15	OBJECTIVE 15 - PINE PLANTATION	29

APPENDIX ONE: WAINUI RESERVE LAND PARCELS

APPENDIX TWO: WAINUI RESERVE HISTORICAL TIMELINE

APPENDIX THREE: LIST OF VASCULAR PLANTS WITHIN WAINUI RESERVE, RAGLAN

APPENDIX FOUR: LAND OCCUPIED BY TRUST WAIKATO RAGLAN SURF LIFESAVING CLUB

APPENDIX FIVE: RAGLAN COASTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

APPENDIX SIX: LIST OF MAJOR PERMITTED AND PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES AT WAINUI RESERVE

APPENDIX SEVEN: CONCEPT PLANS

APPENDIX EIGHT: ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX NINE: FARM REPORT

APPENDIX TEN: PINE PLANTATION REPORT

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Wainui Reserve Management Plan presents a framework for the future management and development of Wainui Reserve. It is a review of the previous plan adopted by Waikato District Council in 1998.

1.1 Wainui Reserve

Wainui Reserve is a significant district and regional asset and receives a high level of use, particularly during the summer period. The reserve has a number of outstanding features:

- access to a patrolled swimming beach (one of only two on the west coast of the Waikato Region) and the closest ocean beach to Hamilton;
- view shafts of coastal scenery;
- the only recreational farm park in the Waikato District;
- venues for activities such as kite flying and hang-gliding;
- a large open space area and a variety of landscapes where passive and active recreation can take place;
- access to, and protection of, a number of important archaeological sites;
- access to, and protection of, a range of sensitive habitat areas;
- an opportunity to develop a farm which promotes sustainable land management practices.

1.2 Purpose of this document

This reserve management plan provides guidance for the future use, management, and development of Wainui Reserve.

1.3 Previous Reserve Management Plans

The previous Wainui Reserve management plan was published in June 1998, a review of the reserve management plan published in November 1991 by Waikato District Council.

2.0 LEGISLATIVE AND PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

There are several legislative and policy planning documents that affect the development, management and use of Wainui Reserve. Wainui Reserve is required to be managed in accordance with its classification under the Reserves Act 1977 and other applicable legislation, such as the Historic Places Act 1993. The reserve must also adhere to relevant Waikato District Council planning documents and policy, as well as other policies and bylaws that apply to the reserve area.

2.1 Reserves Act 1977

The Reserves Act 1977 requires Waikato District Council to develop a reserve management plan for any reserve under its jurisdiction:

“The 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, and shall incorporate and ensure compliance with the principles set out...for a reserve of that classification.”

In accordance with the Reserves Act 1977, this management plan will remain under continuous review.

2.2 Resource Management Act 1991

The purpose of the Resource Management Act 1991 is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. The Act provides regulatory mechanisms that impact on the type and effect of activities within the reserve.

2.3 Historic Places Act 1993

The Historic Places Act 1993 promotes:

“the identification, protection, preservation and conservation of the historic and cultural heritage of New Zealand”.

Within this act, an archaeological site is identified as a place where activity has occurred prior to 1900. The Historic Places Act applies to all archaeological sites, both those that have been recorded and also those that have not. Before any modification, damage, or destruction of any archaeological site an authority needs to be granted by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. When required, authorities are obtained from the New Zealand Historic Places Trust for works within Wainui Reserve.

2.4 Long Term Plan and Annual Plan

The Waikato District Long Term Plan (LTP) is a document that provides a road map for the future direction of the Waikato District and sets out the council's budget. It is a ten-year plan and is reviewed every three years. The requirement and purpose of this document is reflected in the Local Government Act 2002 and "is to:

- describe the activities of the local authority; and
- describe the community outcomes of the local authority's district or region; and
- provide integrated decision making and co-ordination of the resources of the local authority; and
- provide a long term focus for the decisions and activities of the local authority; and
- provide a basis for accountability of the local authority to the community; and
- provide an opportunity for participation by the public in decision-making processes on activities to be undertaken by the local authority."

For years when a Long Term Plan has been created the long term plan there is no requirement for an Annual Plan. Each non – Long Term Plan year an Annual Plan is required which sets out the council's annual budget.

2.5 Waikato District Plan

Waikato District Council's District Plan has been developed in accordance with the Resource Management Act 1991. The purpose of the District Plan is defined as:

"to assist territorial authorities to carry out their functions in order to achieve the purpose of this Act" (S. 72)

When preparing or changing a District Plan, councils are required to have regard to management plans and strategies prepared under other Acts. The District Plan provides rules (e.g. noise control) that affect the use and management of the reserve.

2.6 Reserves and Recreation Policy

Waikato District Council's Reserves and Recreation Policy identifies the council's responsibilities and roles regarding the provision of recreational facilities including the purchase, development and sale of reserves. The policy document sets out objectives and policies that identify the principles and process for decision-making related to the provision of reserve and recreation facilities.

2.7 Bylaws

There are existing bylaws that apply to the use of the council's land and may impact on user behaviour at the reserve. Bylaws applying to the Park include the Waikato District Council Dog Control Bylaw 2007; the Waikato District Council Parking, Traffic Control and the Public Places Bylaw 2007; and the Waikato District Reserves and Beaches Bylaw 2008.

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF WAINUI RESERVE

Wainui Reserve is a 140 hectare reserve that incorporates farming and forestry operations. The reserve is located on Wainui Road, Raglan, just south of Raglan township (1761751, 5813596 New Zealand Transverse Mecator). The reserve is predominately classified as a recreation reserve¹ under the Reserves Act 1977. Part of the reserve area is classified as a local purpose reserve².

Starting at the sandy, open coast beach (Ngarunui Beach) the reserve consists of sand dunes, a steep coastal escarpment, an elevated plateau which is dissected by a number of small gullies, and then a valley which contains the Wainui Stream.

The area has long been considered to be of outstanding value for beach access and landscape reasons and thus was purchased by the council. The northern half of the property, originally known as the Pilot Reserve, was purchased from the Crown in 1965. The Crown revoked the reserve status over the land (gaz 64 p 1980) and Council purchased the fee simple land by way of deferred payment. The final payment was made in 1989. Council gazetted this land as a reserve in 1991.

The two southern-most lots were purchased as fee simple land in 1990 for \$575,000 plus GST. This purchase followed a council decision in the 1980s to decline a request to allow its subdivision into residential lots.

Approximately seven hectares of the reserve has been developed into a bush park by Friends of Wainui Reserve, a Raglan community group. This area of the reserve contains a number of walking tracks, bridges, water features and a picnicking area.

3.1 Legal description and reserve classification

The legal titles, area and land status of the reserve are shown in *Table One* and *Appendix One*. Approximately 136 hectares (of a total area of 140 hectares) is formally recognised as reserve under the Reserves Act 1977.

In 1999, 42.7345 hectares of this reserve area, previously owned in fee simple, was gazetted as a recreation reserve (Lot 1 DPS 44506).

3.3565 hectares is owned in fee simple by the council and is not formally covered by the Reserves Act (Lot 7 DPS 45471). Notwithstanding this area has been included in this reserve management given this lot is actively managed and farmed as part of the reserve as a whole.

¹ A recreation reserve is an “area of land (or land and water) possessing open space, and outdoor recreational values especially suitable for recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside” (Reserves Act Guide, 1999, p. 8/5).

² A local purpose reserve is defined as an “area of land (or land and water) suitable for a specified local education or community purpose which does not duplicate any other reserve purpose” (Reserve Act Guide, 1999, p. 8/3).

An easement will be registered to provide legal recognition to the telecommunications cable laid by TelstraClear Limited across Lot 2 DPS 49408 and Part Lot 1 DPS 44506. The approximate location of the telecommunications cable is shown in *Appendix One*.

Table 1: Legal Descriptions and Classifications of Wainui Reserve

Legal Description and Area	Reserve Classification
Allotment 245 Karioi Parish SO43331 81.979ha	Recreation Reserve
Part Lot 1 DP 28849 7.3021ha	Recreation Reserve
Lot 2 DPS 63315 0.1695ha	Local Purpose (Esplanade) Reserve
Part Lot DP 44506 42.3245ha	Recreation Reserve
Lot 8 DP45471 0.428ha	Local Purpose (Esplanade) Reserve
Lot 6 DP45471 1.7125ha	Local Purpose (Esplanade) Reserve
Lot 7 DP 45471 3.3565ha	N/A – Fee Simple

3.2 Historical and cultural context

The original Māori name of the reserve area was Te Pae Akaroa. In 1855 the Crown purchased approximately 12,000 acres of land from the Chiefs and people of Whaingaroa. This land purchase included Pilot Reserve land (Wainui Reserve land).

The significance of the land to Māori is witnessed by the claim lodged with the Waitangi Tribunal in 1990. In a memorandum of direction (WM 125) dated 19 December 1990 the Waitangi Tribunal ruled that the council has acted in good faith in acquiring the land and that unless by the last day of February 1991 the claimants produced further particulars to the Tribunal it would issue a further memorandum enabling the council to continue with its development plans.

A historical timeline can be found within *Appendix Two*.

3.3 Geology

The geological formations underlying the Wainui Reserve are mainly basalt lavas and interbedded tuffs (indurated volcanic ash) of the Okete volcanic formation. This formation consists of a number of eroded scoria cones, basalt lavas and tuff rings that once would have had similarities to the Auckland city volcanoes, except they are about 2.5 million years old and have been extensively eroded. The Okete formation is distinct from the eroded cone volcano of Mt Karioi, but some ancient lahar deposits produced by debris flows during much earlier erosion of Mt Karioi (active from 2.5 to 2.3 million years ago) overlie some sections of Okete formation at the southern end of the reserve.

A small outcrop of limestone (named the Raglan Limestone of Oligocene age, approximately 25 million years old) occurs on the far northeastern corner of the reserve and just north of Wainui Stream. It is a fossiliferous flaggy limestone, similar to the outcrops on the north side of Raglan Harbour. Modern and actively forming blacksands on Ngarunui Beach and South Head of Raglan Harbour form dunes up to 20 metres thick which lap up against and partly cover the older basalt formations.

3.4 Soil

There are four broad soil classes within Wainui Reserve. The predominant soil class within the reserve is Class VIe2 consisting of “strong rolling slopes” developed from Hamilton ashes. The remaining soil is classified as coastal cliffs and escarpments (Class VIe15), primary and back dunes (Class VIIe3) and flat and undulating (Class IIIe2).

3.5 Sand dunes

There are sand dunes near the old surf club site, toward the end of Riria Kereopa Memorial Drive. These sand dunes were badly eroded until 2004, due to public use and wind erosion.

The Whaingaroa Beach Care Group was established in 2003, and this group has made an impact on restoring this area. The area contained a small amount of exotic vegetation before dune restoration efforts were undertaken. The exotic vegetation was removed and the area reshaped to address the change of in shape of the dune from the presence of exotic vegetation, and to assist the dunes natural reformation. Working bees have been undertaken at the site since 2004 with sand-binding species planted. Waikato Regional Council leads the Whaingaroa Beach Care Group and supplies plants for the group’s dune care activities. Waikato District Council provides annual funding to assist with dune restoration work and works with Waikato Regional Council and local groups on dune restoration projects.



Figure 1: Photos of the entrance and sand dunes at the end of Riria Kereopa Memorial Drive

3.6 Flora

The Wainui Reserve contains a variety of native and exotic plant species. *Appendix Three* provides a list of vascular plants within Wainui Reserve. At the time of purchasing the Bush Park, the land contained remnants of native bush. The level of vegetation within the Bush Park has increased markedly since the Friends of Wainui Reserve began planting within this area. Furthermore significant retirement and planting of grazed areas with native species has taken place.



Figure 2: Wainui Reserve Bush Park

3.7 Wainui Reserve Bush Park

The Wainui Reserve Bush Park area has been developed by the Friends of Wainui Reserve, a local community group, with the assistance of Waikato District Council. Friends of Wainui Reserve formed in 1993 and have undertaken a variety of work within the Wainui Reserve Bush Park including path development, planting, mowing, development of water features and commemorative plaque installation.



Figure 3: Water feature at Wainui Reserve Bush Park

3.8 Whaingaroa Harbour Care Nursery

The Whaingaroa Harbour Care Society has established a non-commercial nursery within Wainui Reserve, near the Wainui Stream. The nursery has propagated over 800,000 native plants, with the majority being planted within the Whaingaroa catchment. Whaingaroa Harbour Care has also undertaken significant revegetation work at Wainui Reserve, having planted an estimate of over 150,000 plants.

3.9 Trust Waikato Raglan Surf Lifesaving Club

Trust Waikato Raglan Surf Lifesaving Club provides lifeguard services on Ngarunui Beach from late October until Easter. The organisation runs volunteer-based services, that is supported by professional lifeguard services during weeks days in December and January.

Trust Waikato Raglan Surf Lifesaving Club headquarters are situated at Wainui Reserve close to the lower car park. The organisation also provides training in beach and surf activities for junior members on Ngarunui Beach. Trust Waikato Raglan Surf Lifesaving Club has developed a new surf lifesaving tower situated to the right of the access way leading from the lower car park. The tower and headquarters are identified in Appendix Four.

3.10 Community involvement at the reserve

Community involvement in the development and maintenance has greatly assisted the reserve. Friends of Wainui Reserve have undertaken significant work within the Wainui Reserve Bush Park, and Whaingaroa Harbour Care has undertaken a large amount of planting and riparian management activities within the reserve. The Wainui Reserve Committee of Management was previously responsible for a variety of work undertaken at the reserve.

Community volunteers assisted with the building of the walkway structure leading to the lower car park area.



Figure 4: Wooden staircases leading to the lower car park

3.11 Raglan Coastal Reserves Advisory Committee

In 2010 Waikato District Council established a Raglan Coastal Reserves Advisory Committee. This committee provides advice to Waikato District Council on matters concerning the strategic management and capital development of Wainui Reserve, along with three other Raglan reserves. The committee's terms of reference can be found within *Appendix Five*.

Previous to the Raglan Coastal Reserves Advisory Committee, the Wainui Reserve Committee of Management assisted the management of the reserve, decided on capital development matters, and held other responsibilities. Waikato District Council reviewed the role of the Wainui Reserve Committee of Management in 2009 and the outcome of the review was the establishment of a Raglan Coastal Reserves Advisory Committee and the disestablishment of the Wainui Reserve Committee of Management.

3.12 Development of the reserve

Much of the development of the reserve has closely followed what was set out within the previous two management plans.

Since the publication of the previous plan, several new developments have taken place. These are identified in *Appendix Two*.

A revegetation programme was developed in 2007 to assist in determining how best to undertake revegetation work within the reserve. Landscape analysis was undertaken as part of the development of the revegetation programme. The landscape analysis identified two distinctive perspectives of the reserve which have different landscape characteristics. This proposed programme was considered through the reserve management planning process.

Management of archaeological sites has been undertaken and is ongoing. Waikato District Council has been working with Historic Places Trust to manage archaeological sites within the reserve.

Commercial forestry and pastoral farming operations have continued to take place at the reserve. Farming operations have provided the reserve with additional funding to help develop the reserve. About 85 hectares are grazed and approximately 10 hectares of pines have been planted.

The reserve will never be financially self-supporting and it will require ongoing financial contributions from the council. The total cost associated with the reserve net of income was \$149,100.79 in 2009/10 and \$273,171.38 in 2008/09. Costs to the council are expected to increase as the level of use increases and if the area being grazed reduces. Currently, the income from grazing is covering farm operational costs (excluding wages) and enables the standard of farm facilities to be improved.

3.13 Reserve uses

General Uses

Wainui Reserve is a significant regional reserve and is a destination for regional, national, and international communities. Its picturesque views, access to Ngarunui Beach, and location to nearby surfing facilities make the reserve a key asset for the Waikato District.

The reserve is utilised for a number of recreational activities. A list of major permitted and prohibited activities are listed in *Appendix Six*. Walking, swimming, and surfing are some of the more popular activities that take place at and adjacent to the reserve. Passive recreational activities, such as sightseeing, are also popular for those visiting the reserve. Key lookouts are also utilised as viewing platforms by boat users and surfers for checking sea conditions.

Horse riding is permitted along marked tracks on the reserve, and horse riding along heavily utilised pedestrian tracks is discouraged. Horse riding is not allowed within Wainui Reserve Bush Park. Horse riding is also permitted on the reserve along the track from Wainui Road passing through the pine plantation to Ngarunui Beach.

Wainui Reserve's amphitheatre has been utilised for music festivals. Festival patrons have been allowed to camp on the site for two nights over the period of the festival.

General event guidelines have been developed by Waikato District Council. All events held at the reserve must comply with these general guidelines. The council may specify additional requirements depending on the type of event being held.

Ngarunui Beach is also utilised for commercial surfing lessons and board hire. Manu Bay, close to Wainui Reserve, is world renowned for surfing, attracting significant numbers of people to the area and often holding local through to international events.

Leases and Concessions

Trust Waikato Raglan Surf Lifesaving Club will be granted a lease of the land occupied by its club building as indicated on the plan attached as *Appendix Four*. This building enables the Club to carry-out the various activities specified in section 3.9. The Club also occupies and utilises the surf lifesaving lookout tower it has erected, as shown on *Appendix Four*

TelstraClear Limited was given approval in 2001 to lay and maintain an underground fibre optic cable which makes land fall on the beach at a point opposite to the access leading from the main car park. The approximate alignment of the underground cable is indicated on *Appendix One*

4.0 MANAGEMENT PLAN PROCESS

The development of this plan follows a reserve management planning process. The plan will be reviewed in 10 years from the year of approval. The plan was developed in the following fashion:



5.0 ISSUES

5.1 Networking of walkways

There are several walkways within Wainui Reserve. These are identified in *Appendix Seven*. In some cases walkways need further maintenance and signage to increase user enjoyment and safety. In addition, there is the need to network walkways as much as practicable. It has been identified through the submission process that people with disabilities use the road to move around public areas and that the development of wheelchair accessible walkways are important.

5.2 Parking

There are significant parking issues at Wainui Reserve over the summer months, and this has already received some attention from both the Wainui Reserve Management Committee and council staff. A new car parking layout was implemented in 2009. The aim of the redesign was to increase the functionality of the car park by creating designated car park lanes and parking areas. There are still issues with cars being parked along the road leading to and from the car park, which could cause a significant issue for emergency vehicle access to and from the beach. While parking infringement notices are issued on a regular basis, parking issues continue to pose a safety risk at the reserve, although overflow car parking (identified *Appendix Seven*) has assisted somewhat with these issues. It has also been identified through the submission process that designated mobility parks should be provided at key recreation facilities and look-out points.

5.3 Signage

Signage within the reserve area is currently inconsistent and there is either too little or too much signage in some areas of the reserve. There have been concerns that look out signage is also poor, that there is a lack of clarity regarding directions to car parking, and a lack of signage identifying accessible facilities for those with disabilities. The Wainui Reserve Bush Park area also requires improved walkway signposting. Replacement signage is sometimes needed due to signage being stolen.

5.4 Weed control

There are significant weed and pest control issues at the reserve, with large amounts of boxthorn, *tradescantia fluminensis*, bone seed, woolly nightshade pampas, gorse, and other weeds within the reserve area. The proliferation of weeds also presents a fire risk. Waikato District Council staff, in conjunction with Waikato Regional Council, monitor and carry out weed control on site. A weed management plan is necessary.

5.5 Sustainable land and farm management practices

The reserve currently operates an “all grass, single animal class” programme. Community members have suggested, as part of the consultation and written suggestion process, that the reserve could be more sustainably managed, and the farm could possibly move towards organic farming.

5.6 Archaeological sites

A full archaeological assessment of the reserve was undertaken in 2008 and is attached as *Appendix Eight*. This assessment identified further archaeological sites and set out management actions to protect identified sites within the reserve. There is the need for on-going management and monitoring of these sensitive sites. The archaeological sites are further identified on the concept plan and archaeological sites plan (see *Appendix Seven*).

5.7 Dune care

Dune care efforts are on-going. Public awareness of dune care issues needs to increase in order to protect the dunes from being damaged by reserve users. There is an ongoing need to ensure that dunes are protected through appropriate access ways to and from the beach area along with restoration planting.

5.8 Camping

Camping on the reserve area and Ngarunui Beach is an ongoing issue for, particularly during the summer months. Camping is prohibited on the reserve, except during festivals where the council has allowed designated areas for festival goers. The nearest camping ground to Wainui Reserve is Raglan Kopua Holiday Park.

6.0 MANAGEMENT PLAN VISION

The vision of the reserve is:

To operate and develop Wainui Reserve as a recreational resource for local and wider communities, and to protect and enhance the ecological and landscape values of the reserve

Wainui Reserve is an important recreational resource for the Raglan community and is also a popular attraction for regional and wider communities. Landscape and ecological values should be protected and enhanced whilst encouraging the use of the reserve as a recreational resource. The reserve's natural beauty should be protected.

7.0 MANAGEMENT PLAN OBJECTIVES, POLICIES & IMPLEMENTATION

Several objectives have been developed to guide the development, management and use of the Wainui Reserve. These objectives seek to maximise the vision of Wainui Reserve as a recreational resource and enhance and protect the reserve's ecological values.

7.1 Objective 1 - Ecological values and restoration

Objective:

Wainui reserve's ecological values are protected and enhanced.

Explanation:

The reserve has been fortunate over the years to have received a significant amount of attention in relation to riparian management and revegetation activities; however, there is the need for a more comprehensive consideration of the protection and enhancement of Wainui Reserve's ecological values. The identification of revegetation areas in *Appendix Seven* is the first step in moving towards a comprehensive approach. There is the need to continue and improve weed and pest control activities, increase awareness relating to dune protection and care, and general maintenance efforts to retain and develop the reserve's ecological values. Waikato District Council seeks to work in partnership with the community to increase these values.

Policies:

- a) Restoration and enhancement, including revegetation and riparian management, will be undertaken as much as practicable with a view of continual review and improvement.
- b) Waikato District Council will collaborate with community groups to assist revegetation of the reserve.
- c) Waikato District Council will work with other government agencies and iwi, as necessary, to build awareness of the ecological values within the reserve area.
- d) Any facility development will need to consider its impact on the ecology of the reserve.
- e) An ecological restoration plan will be developed to restore and enhance the ecological values of the reserve.

Implementation:

- I. An ecological restoration plan will include:
 - A comprehensive revegetation programme
 - Identification of plant and animal pests and management methods
 - Dune protection and enhancement methods
 - Water quality management methods
 - Relationships to natural landscape values
- II. The revegetation component of the ecological restoration plan will only utilise native plant species consistent with local habitats, Except for specified areas within the Wainui Bush Park, approved by the council, . Locally eco-sourced plants should be used where feasible. Areas for revegetation include areas which can create ecological linkages, erosion prone areas, and those along key riparian/drainage patterns. The reserve should be examined in its entirety and the complete ecological network considered. Revegetation work can follow a staged approach and opportunities for community input in revegetation work should be identified.
- III. The plan will identify areas which require intensive plant and animal pest control will be specified within the ecological restoration plan along with suitable control methods. Sustainable land management practices and issues will be considered.
- IV. The plan will identify key habitats and methods for restoration and enhancement of these features.

- V. The plan will identify riparian planting and other management methods necessary to improve the ecological health of Wainui Stream.
- VI. The plan will identify measures to avoid, remedy and mitigates the effects of land management practices and recreation on the ecological health of the reserve.
- VII. The plan should identify links to and comply with other government policies and codes as appropriate (such as Waikato Regional Council's Dune Care Code).
- VIII. The plan should identify fencing requirements for revegetated areas.
- IX. An annual schedule of works to be carried out under the plan will be developed in consultation with the Raglan Coastal Reserves Advisory Committee to involve stakeholders and community groups in identified conservation and revegetation activities as appropriate.

7.2 Objective 2 - Landscape management

Objective:

The landscape values of the reserve are maintained and enhanced.

Explanation:

Natural landscape features need to be taken into account when considering new development at the reserve.

Policy:

- a) Recreational assets and other reserve development should have as minimal impact as possible on the natural landscape values of the reserve.
- b) Enhance the natural character of the coastal escarpment and the reserve gully patterns as seen from key public viewing points along the Whaanga Coast and Coastal Marine Area

Implementation:

- I. When any future reserve development or new recreational activity is being considered, its impact on the reserve's landscape values will be examined.
- II. Landscape features and values will be considered when upgrading recreation assets such as tracks.
- III. Allow for, and retain, the key view shafts within Wainui Reserve and outward toward the coast. Key view shafts are identified in *Appendix Seven*.

7.3 Objective 3 - Recreational opportunities

Objective:

Recreational opportunities are maximised and allow for multiple reserve uses.

Explanation:

The reserve is regularly used for recreational activities. There are several walking tracks around the reserve that need to be maintained. The Wainui Reserve Bush Park area has been significantly developed, and there is the need to increase opportunities for people to visit and enjoy this area of the reserve.

The reserve is utilised significantly over the summer period. The development of further walking and mountain biking tracks may increase the popularity of the reserve outside of the summer period.

Three levels of tracks and walkways have been identified: casual walkways, gravel formed walkways, and sealed walkways. It is expected that casual walkways will be located within grassed areas (mown pathways or open paddocks). Gravel formed walkways will require periodic maintenance and upgrading, and would be located in higher use areas. Sealed walkways consist of concreted pathways for pedestrian access, and would be located in high use areas.

Policy:

- a) Recreational activities should not compromise the enjoyment of other reserve users.
- b) Recreational opportunities should be compatible with ecological values.
- c) Reserve users should be encouraged to range freely over the reserve except:
 - around the farm homestead,
 - in environmentally sensitive areas where access will be limited to all-weather tracks,
 - in farm or forestry areas for public safety or production reasons,
 - areas occupied by the Trust Waikato Raglan Surf Lifesaving Club,
 - Whaingaroa Harbour Care nursery,
 - and any other part of the reserve for conservation or health and safety reasons.
- d) Walking, mountain biking and horse riding shall be allowed through farming and commercial forestry areas, as designated by Waikato District Council. .

- e) Further walking tracks should be developed and maintained as practicable, taking into consideration the archaeological significance of areas and providing for people with disabilities.
- f) Mountain biking tracks should be considered for development within the pine plantation.
- g) Reserve walkways should be linked and connect to car parking facilities as much as practicable.
- h) Vehicle access across farm areas will be granted through the use of a permit system.

Implementation:

- I. A suitable number of walking and mountain biking tracks will be developed dependent on user demand and as much as practicable.
- II. Walking and mountain biking tracks will be maintained to an appropriate standard.
- III. Wheelchair/pushchair access will be provided as much as practicable around the reserve area developed from appropriate construction materials.
- IV. Walking tracks will be linked as much as practicable.

7.4 Objective 4 - Organised events

Policy:

- i) Reserve events should be managed to ensure events have as little impact on reserve environs as possible.

Implementation:

- I. Reserve events will be managed through a general set of event rules, which will include conditions of use, and applicable bylaws.
- II. Event rule compliance will be monitored as deemed necessary by the council.
- III. Event rules and regulations will be reviewed as the council considers necessary.

7.5 Objective 5 - Reserve access

Objective:

Reserve users are able to access the reserve freely and safely while ensuring health and safety requirements are met.

Explanation:

The reserve provides a variety of recreational activities and also contains a working farm which needs to adhere to health and safety requirements.

Policies:

- a) The public should be free to explore Wainui Reserve unless restrictions are required for environmental or health and safety reasons, or due to the presence of approved events at the reserve.
- b) The public should be excluded from farm areas, as deemed appropriate by the Raglan Reserves Team Leader, due to health and safety requirements.
- c) Access to the reserve for events shall be deemed appropriate by Waikato District Council staff in accordance with event agreements and rules.
- d) Vehicle access to Ngarunui Beach via the sealed vehicle path should be prohibited unless approved by Waikato District Council staff for commercial activities, access for people with disabilities, or emergency vehicle use.
- e) Access for Para-gliders and hang gliders may be provided through 316 Wainui Road only unless otherwise specified by Waikato District Council.
- f) Access to the pine plantation area may be prohibited during high fire risk periods.

7.6 Objective 6 - Facility development

Objective:

Facilities are developed that allow for increased recreational use and take into account the landscape and ecological values of the reserve.

Policies:

- a) Reserve facilities should be designed using a consistent design and colour theme as far as practicable.
- b) Reserve facilities should be developed to enhance the recreational opportunities available at the reserve for everyone.

- c) The number of new buildings should be limited to retain open space and protect viewshafts.
- d) Facility design should consider visual impact and landscape values.

7.7 Objective 7 - Relationship with Tainui Hapū

Objective:

An ongoing relationship between Waikato District Council and Tainui Hapū is developed and maintained.

Explanation:

Tainui Hapū have a relationship with Wainui Reserve land which should continue to be recognised and fostered when considering developments and management activities that could impact on areas of cultural sensitivity within the reserve area.

Policies:

- a) Tainui Hapū should be consulted over the management and protection of culturally important features.
- b) Waikato District Council should support in principle applications made by Tangata Whenua to research archaeological sites.
- c) There should be a designated Tainui Hapū contact(s) to advise on issues arising of cultural significance.
- d) The Tainui Hapū representative(s) should be consulted on any issues of archaeological significance.

7.8 Objective 8 - Health and safety

Objective:

A safe environment for reserve users is provided.

Explanation:

The reserve caters for a number of passive and active recreational activities, and maintaining an environment that takes into account the safety of reserve users is paramount.

Policies:

- a) Reserve walkways and mountain biking tracks should be maintained to limit safety issues as much as possible.
- b) Undesired access to the reserve should be curbed through the appropriate use of access barriers that utilise standard designs.
- c) Landscape design and facility development should consider safety issues.
- d) Fencing should be developed and maintained as appropriate.
- e) Private motorised vehicle access should be limited to parking areas and formed roads.

Implementation:

- I. Access barriers will be utilised as appropriate to curb inappropriate vehicular access.
- II. When carrying out landscape design, facility development, and fencing health and safety issues will be considered.

7.9 Objective 9 - Noise controlObjective:

Reserve events occur in a manner that does not detract from the enjoyment of passive recreation activities or cause a nuisance to surrounding neighbours.

Explanation:

Events at the reserve can create noise issues for residents living near the reserve. The noise from events could also interfere with passive recreation. The effects of noise generated from events is dependent upon wind direction and strength.

Policy:

- a) Noise from reserve events should not be excessive and should not cause a nuisance to near-by residents or other reserve users.

Implementation:

- I. Noise levels will adhere to the District Plan noise levels.
- II. Noise monitoring of reserve events should take place as necessary to determine noise levels.
- III. Appropriate actions will be taken if Council deems noise levels to be excessive.

7.10 Objective 10 - Signage

Objective:

Reserve signage is limited and is consistent with Waikato District Council's signage guidelines.

Explanation:

There is a significant amount of signage at the reserve. Signage consistency and location could be improved. There is also the need to improve signage relating to walking tracks (particularly at Wainui Reserve Bush Park), and eventually mountain biking tracks. There needs to be a balance between conveying detail, and limiting the level of visual pollution at the reserve. Signage should also comply with Health and Safety requirements.

Policies:

- a) Signage should be developed in accordance with Waikato District Council's signage guidelines.
- b) Signposting along reserve walkways and mountain biking tracks should be implemented as appropriate.
- c) Reserve signage should be limited as much as possible to decrease the level of visual pollution at the site.
- d) Directive signage should be provided to indicate the direction to reserve facilities and recreation areas.
- e) Signage depicting reserve regulations and advisory messages should be displayed on site as appropriate.
- f) Reserve signage should be accurate and updated to reflect changes in the location of reserve facilities.
- g) Consider providing further information regarding walkway length, distance and gradient along walking tracks.

Implementation:

- I. Signage will be improved along Wainui Reserve Bush Park walking tracks.
- II. Reduce the number of similar signs (e.g. car theft warning signs) around the reserve.
- III. Replace the information sheet explaining the meaning of the statues and retain the signage structure.

- IV. Signage will be installed showing the location of all facilities within the reserve and will continue to be updated if needed.
- V. Install signage addressing the ecological values within the reserve and the historical and cultural significance of the area.

7.11 Objective 11 - Parking

Objective:

Appropriate car parking facilities are provided to provide a safe environment for all reserve users.

Explanation:

Over the summer periods Wainui Reserve is highly used and requires a systematic parking strategy to help manage congestion and provide a workable environment for vehicles to navigate, particularly emergency vehicles. A car parking plan has been implemented and it is expected that parking issues will need regular monitoring over the summer period.

Policies:

- a) Where consistent with farming operations, farm paddocks should be utilised for overflow parking during peak periods.
- b) Council should consider employing reserve wardens during peak periods to assist with traffic management.
- c) Provide car parking spaces for people with disabilities.

7.12 Objective 12 - Commercial activities

Objective:

To ensure that commercial activity enhances reserve user experience and has a limited impact on reserve environs.

Explanation:

Commercial activity has been allowed at the reserve's amphitheatre and also on Ngarunui Beach where commercial surfing lessons take place. These are existing use, and are considered appropriate as they have a limited environmental impact. The Raglan Coastal Reserves Advisory Committee will advise Waikato District Council concerning the scheduling of events at the reserve.

Policies:

- a) Waikato District Council should continue to consider the use of the reserve's amphitheatre for events provided they meet reserve event rules, applicable legislation, and contract requirements.
- b) Raglan Coastal Reserves Advisory Committee should periodically review commercial activities that take place on the reserve to advise Waikato District Council whether the activities are still considered appropriate.

7.13 Objective 13 - Farm management practices

Objective:

Farm operations should be undertaken in a sustainable manner with limited impact on the ecological and recreational values of the reserve.

Explanation:

A report prepared for Waikato District Council on Wainui Reserve's farming operations (completed in February 2008) found that the reserve was being managed in a sustainable manner (see *Appendix Eight*). Waikato District Council should continue to follow sustainable farming practices and improve these as far as practicable.

Policies:

- a) The farm should continue to be operated in accordance with sustainable farming practices.
- b) Farming operations should have limited impact on recreational and environmental values.

7.14 Objective 14 - Archaeological sites

Objective:

Archaeological sites within the reserve are protected using appropriate management actions

Explanation:

In 2008 an archaeological assessment was undertaken by CFG Heritage for Waikato District Council. This report outlined management objectives and actions to protect archaeological sites within the reserve. A copy of the archaeological assessment can be found within *Appendix Five*.

Policies:

- a) Archaeological sites should be managed in accordance with the management actions identified within CFG Heritage's archaeological assessment. Signage depicting the location and nature of archaeological sites should only occur in agreement with iwi.
- b) Waikato District Council should engage an archaeologist periodically to examine the state of the sites and to determine whether any further management actions are necessary.

7.15 Objective 15 - Pine plantation

Objective:

Management of the pine plantation should be consistent with health and safety requirements, landscape values and provide for recreational opportunities where practicable.

Explanation:

The ten hectare stand of pine is just over half way through its growing cycle and in 2008 an assessment was carried out on the stand (see *Appendix Ten*). The community has expressed interest in establishing mountain-biking trails within the pine plantation area. Health and safety requirements also need to be considered within the pine plantation area, particularly due to possible fire risk.

Policies:

- a) To develop mountain biking tracks within the pine plantation area in liaison with local mountain biking groups where practicable.
- b) To consider prohibiting public access to the pine plantation area during high fire risk periods and other health and safety matters.