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# Consultation Report

## **Report on Informal Consultation Feedback for the Reid's Farm Reserve Management Plan Review**

An analysis of informal feedback collected by the Taupo District  
Council between 22 July – 19 August 2016.

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**Taupo District Council**  
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## Overview

*Reserve Management Plans let people know what they can do at reserves, and how the council manages their daily operation. Public input plays a crucial part in management plan reviews. This report analyses the feedback received from informal consultation on the review of the Reid's Farm Management Plan. The feedback includes an online survey, comments on the Taupo District Council Facebook page, and the Reid's Farm Working Group's initial workshop. It identifies the overarching themes and opportunities discussed in the consultation. The feedback paints a picture of who the Reid's Farm reserve users are, and their expectations for the future management of the reserve.*

## 1 Background

The Taupo District Council notified their intention to review the Reid's Farm Reserve Management Plan (RFRMP) on 22 July 2016 and welcomed informal feedback from the public about how they think the reserve should be managed.

For this informal consultation, feedback was encouraged in an online survey, by contacting the council directly, and by leaving comments on the council Facebook page. The survey questions are appended to this report. The raw survey data and Facebook comments are available at the Taupo District Council.

To ensure they heard from a wide range of the community, the council also formed the Reid's Farm Working Group. The working group comprised key community members and interest groups. The group does not make formal decisions. They advise council about what reserve users want, and debate the merits of proposed changes to the management plan. Their initial feedback was collected at a workshop held on 8 July 2016.

The feedback received included 277 survey responses, 16 Facebook comments with 11 replies, five emails and one letter from the general public, and a table of issues, opportunities and observations from the Reid's Farm Working Group's workshop.

This report is based on analysis of the informal feedback collected and provides a cross section of reserve users and public opinions at the time of the survey.

A formal submission process will be held once the Draft Reid's Farm Reserve Management Plan has been developed.

## 2 Process

Under section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977, the council wanted to know how reserve users and district residents want the reserve to be managed. The council notified the general public of their intention to review the existing management plan on 22 July 2016 and welcomed feedback until 19 August 2016 in the form of emails, letters, Facebook comments, an online survey, and by ringing the council.

The feedback received included 277 survey responses, 16 Facebook comments with 11 replies, five emails, and one letter from the general public, and a table of issues, opportunities and observations from the Reid's Farm Working Group's workshop.

### 2.1 Survey

The online survey was developed to help the council understand who the reserve users are, their experiences at the reserve, and their suggestions for its improvement. The intention of the survey was to ensure that responses from the community were consistent and could therefore be easily analysed. The feedback received for each question is analysed in section 3 of this report. The survey questions can be found in Appendix 1.

### 2.2 Reid's Farm Working Group

To ensure that user groups were heard, the council also formed the Reid's Farm Working Group. The working group was made of key community members and interest group representatives. The purpose of the group is not to make formal decisions but to provide informed advice to the council about the use, values, issues and opportunities associated with the reserve, and debate the merits of proposed changes to the management plan. The council organised for the working group to meet three times throughout the review process. This report includes information from their first meeting on 8 July 2016, and their feedback table is attached in Appendix 2.

### 2.3 Direct Engagement

As well as the survey and working group responses, the project team has also talked to specific individuals or groups to get specific information. This has been to either fill in gaps from the survey or ensure that we are getting input from important stakeholders or partners, such as local hapū.

### 2.4 Other feedback

The council also received general feedback on how Reid's Farm could be used in the future. Five emails and one letter were received, offering suggestions about the management of Reid's Farm. The Facebook post was viewed by 7324 people, received 40 likes and was shared 27 times. From those, 209 people clicked through to the web page. There were 16 comments made on the post about the reserve. The content of the emails, letter and Facebook comments have been reflected in the following consultation report and informed the review process.

## 3 Survey Analysis

The following sections outline the results from the feedback received. Figure 1 provides a pictorial overview of the key information.

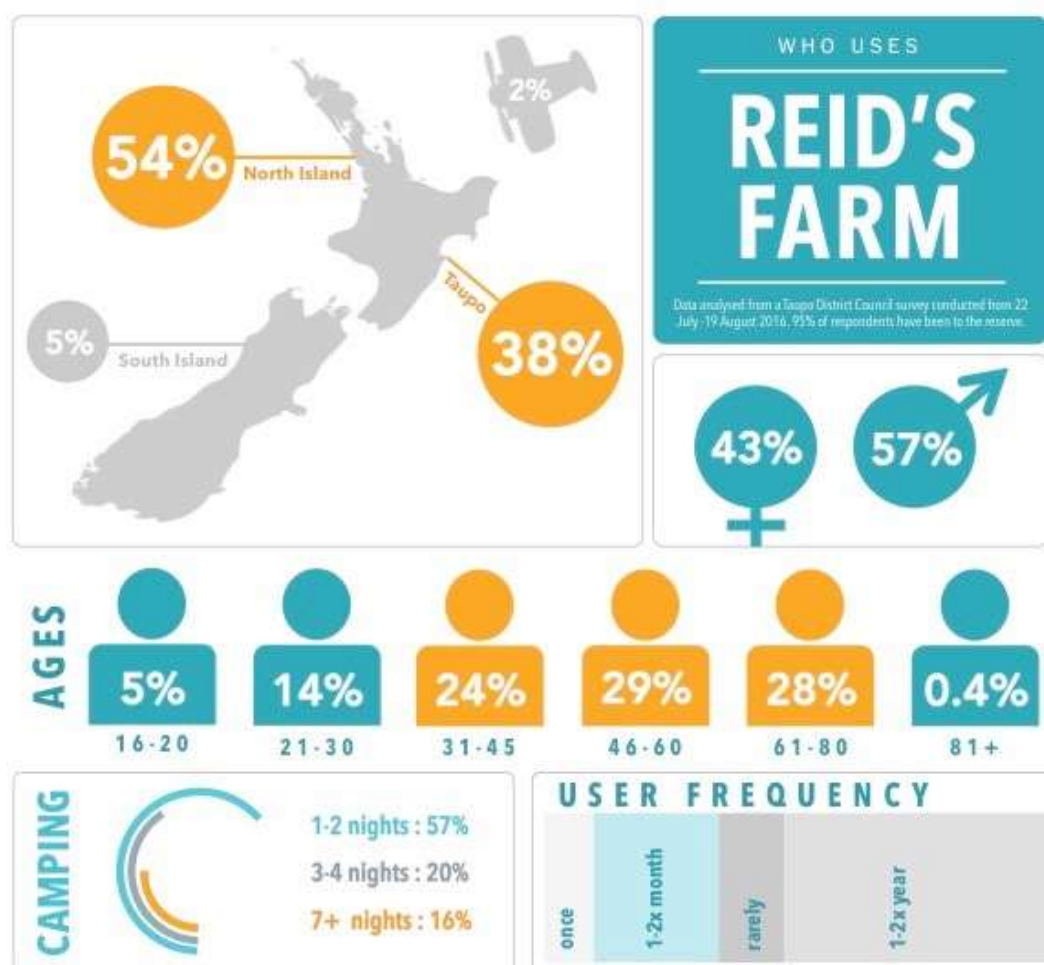


Figure 1: Who Uses Reid's Farm

### 3.1 Question 1

“Have you ever been to Reid’s Farm?”

95.3% of 277 survey respondents confirmed they had been to Reid’s Farm.

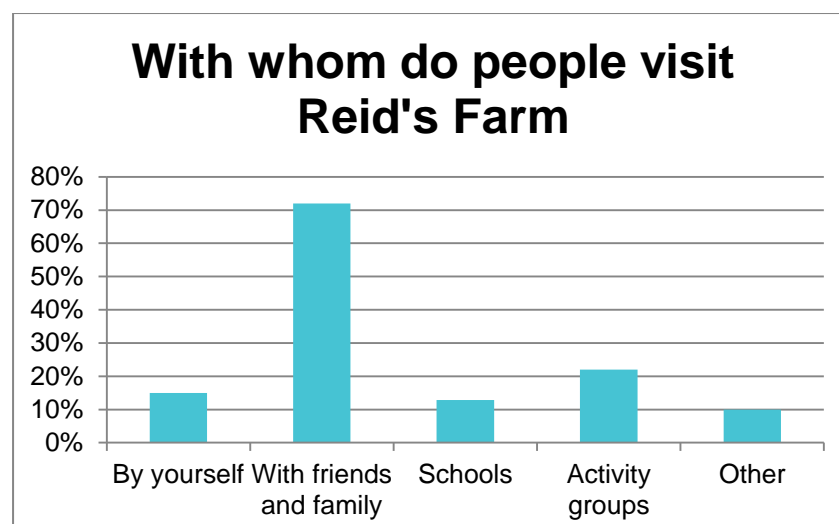
### 3.2 Question 2

“If you answered “no” to questions 1, why not?”

Only 4.7% of respondents had not been to Reid’s Farm. Two thought it seemed unsafe, two didn’t know about the reserve, and others hadn’t been there yet but probably would.

### 3.3 Question 3

“If you answered yes to question 1, with whom [did you go]?”

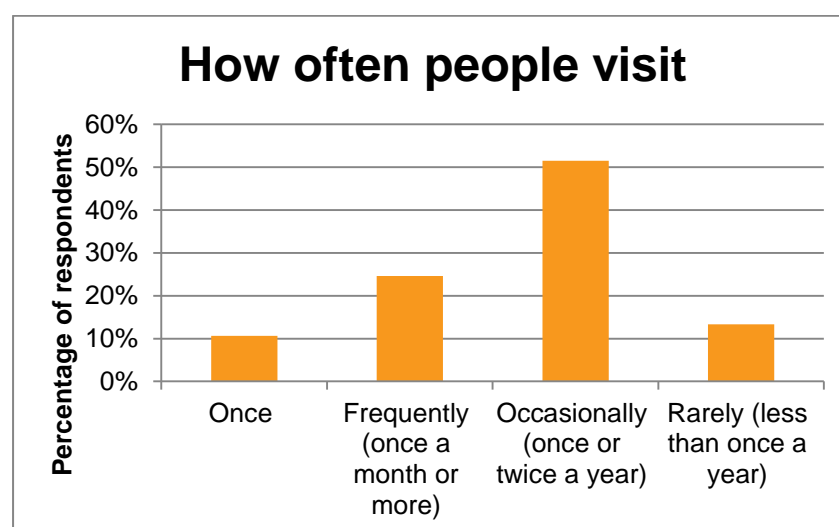


**Figure 2: Who do reserve users go with**

72% of reserve users go with friends and family, and groups (school and other activity groups) make up nearly 35 % of users (Figure 2).

### 3.4 Question 4

“If yes to question 1, how many times have you visited?”



**Figure 3: How often do people visit Reid's Farm**

The majority of respondents visit Reid's Farm once or twice a year (Figure 3).

Further analysis shows that 72% of the most frequent visitors are from the Taupo district and 63% of the occasional visitors are from the North Island.

### 3.5 Question 5

“If you answered “yes” to question 1, what did you like about Reid's Farm?”

254 people responded to question 5. Answers were open ended and varied. The most common responses are highlighted in Figure 4.

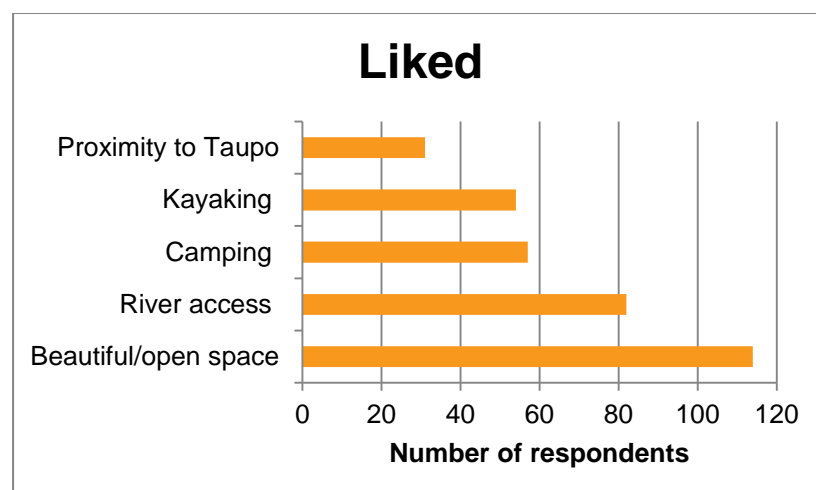


Figure 4: What reserve users like about Reid's Farm

Very few people (<1%) said they walked, fished or picnicked there. Very few people (<1%) listed the facilities as something they liked.

Few people (<1%) noted that the reserve is easy to access from the road (not just river access). Those who mentioned good access were in the older age brackets (61-80) and those who visit the reserve with groups.

## Observations

It is possible that access to and through the site is something that could easily be taken for granted and therefore not addressed in much of the feedback.

While proximity to Taupo made up only 12% of respondents' comments to this question, the contrast between the natural simplicity of the reserve and its proximity to town make it unique. Other camping grounds in close proximity to Taupo are more developed and provide a different camping experience.

## 3.6 Question 6

"If you answered yes to question 1, what did you *not* like about Reid's Farm?"

Answers were open-ended and varied and 231 people replied. Respondents identified the top 3 issues as antisocial behaviour, rubbish, and camper mess (Figure 5).

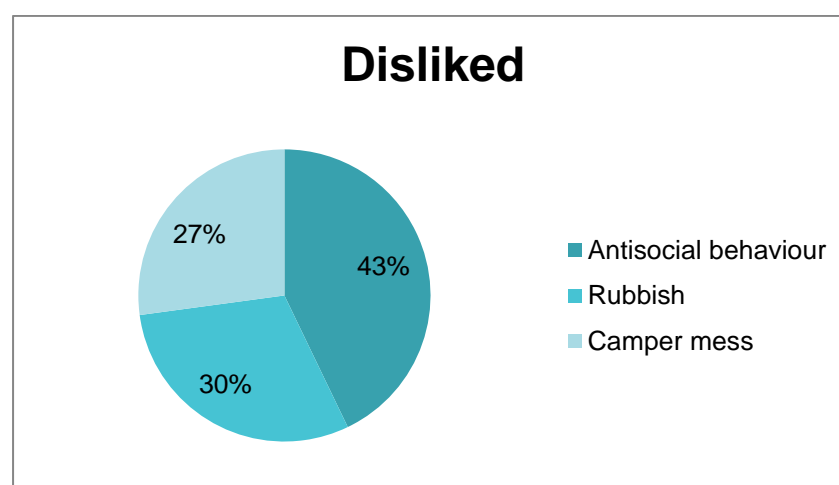


Figure 5: What survey respondents dislike about Reid's Farm

Antisocial behaviour is generally described as including excessive alcohol/partying, intimidation, and crime. Camper mess generally includes washing bodies and dishes in river and toileting in shrubs.



Other concerns that were pretty evenly spread amongst respondents were:

- Poor camper behaviour 12%
- Crowds 10%
- Overstayers 11%
- Roads and landscaping need attention 10%
- Lack of facilities (like toilet/shower block) 10%

## Observations

“Overstayers” are those campers who have seemingly set up a permanent camp, or those who stay beyond the maximum camping time of 28 days.

Poor camper behaviour is interpreted as inconsiderate behaviour that affects other’s enjoyment of the reserve, but is not strictly antisocial/criminal. It is worth noting that some poor camper behaviour/camper mess, like washing in the river and toileting in shrubs, could potentially be a response to overcrowding and a lack of facilities. With no shower or sink for washing up, some campers may see the river as the only option. If the toilets are used a lot and not cleaned regularly, people might resort to using the bushes. If rubbish bins are not obvious or emptied regularly, people may dump rubbish on the grounds.

There could also be a monitoring or education component to poor camper behaviour, possibility remedied by signs and wardens correcting bad behaviour.

The council could undertake further investigation into poor camper behaviour to identify the most effective ways to remedy it.

## 3.7 Question 7

“If you answered “yes” to question 1, did you see any antisocial behaviour? Please specify.”

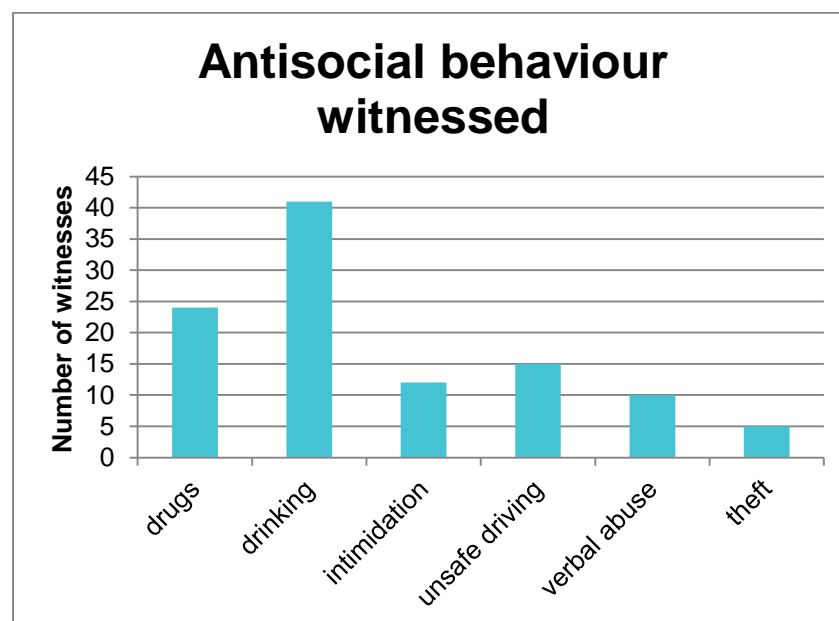


Figure 6: Kinds of antisocial behaviour seen at the reserve

26 survey respondents reported seeing or experiencing a variety of antisocial behaviour at the reserve, including drug use/selling, excessive drinking/drunkenness, intimidation/aggression; car burnouts or fast driving within the reserve, verbal abuse and theft (Figure 6).

### 3.8 Question 8

“Have you ever camped at Reid's Farm?”

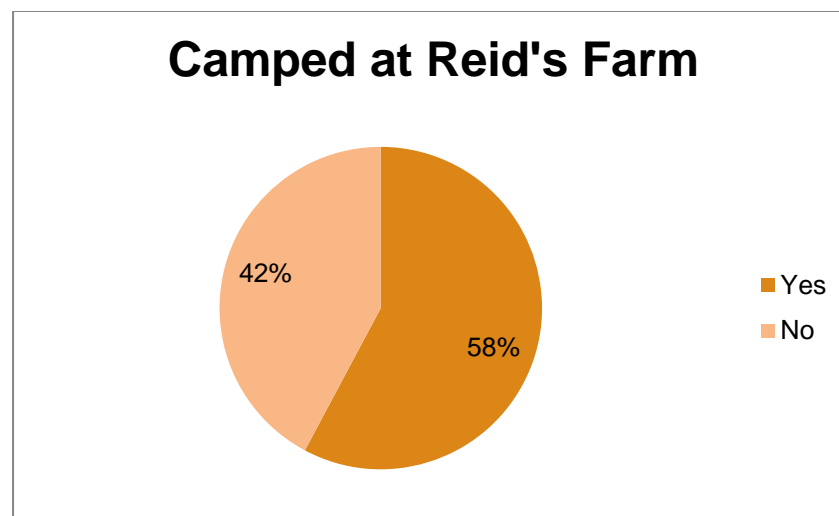


Figure 7: Percentage of survey respondents who have camped at the reserve

Of the 277 people surveyed, 160 said they have camped at Reid's Farm (Figure 7). Further analysis shows that 114/160 were from the North Island, and 30/160 were from the Taupo district.

In addition, camper ages were mixed but skewed toward older visitors, with 53% between 31-60 years old (Figure 8).

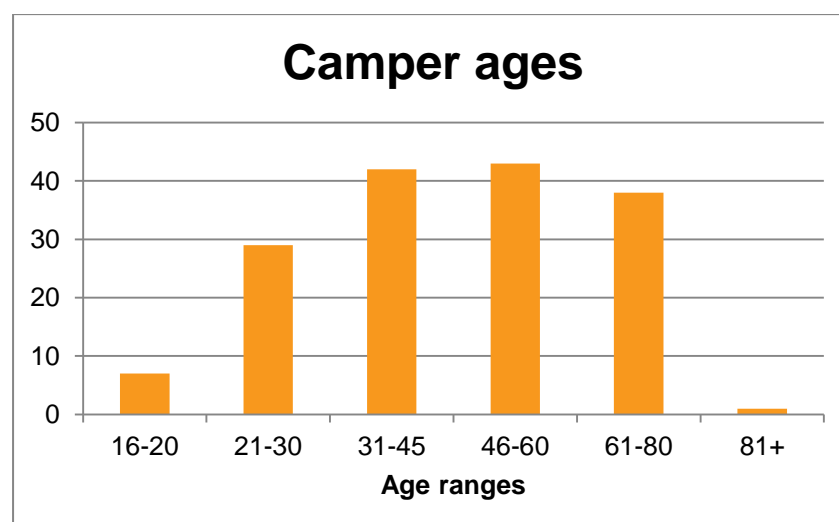


Figure 8: Age ranges of people who have camped at the reserve

#### Observations

The percentage of survey respondents who have camped at Reid's Farm, and the range in ages, could be correlated to the time of year the informal survey was released. Conducting a survey in peak seasons like summer could potentially change those results. For example, if the same survey was conducted during summer, it might result in a larger number of school age participants.

It could also be useful, when seeking future feedback, to understand any links between user age and whether they use tents, camper vans, or motorhomes.

If the skew toward older visitors is an accurate reflection of reserve users, the Council may wish to consider consulting with groups that cater for older New Zealanders, like Age Concern New Zealand.

### 3.9 Question 9

“If yes to question 8 (have you camped at Reid’s Farm), for how many nights?”

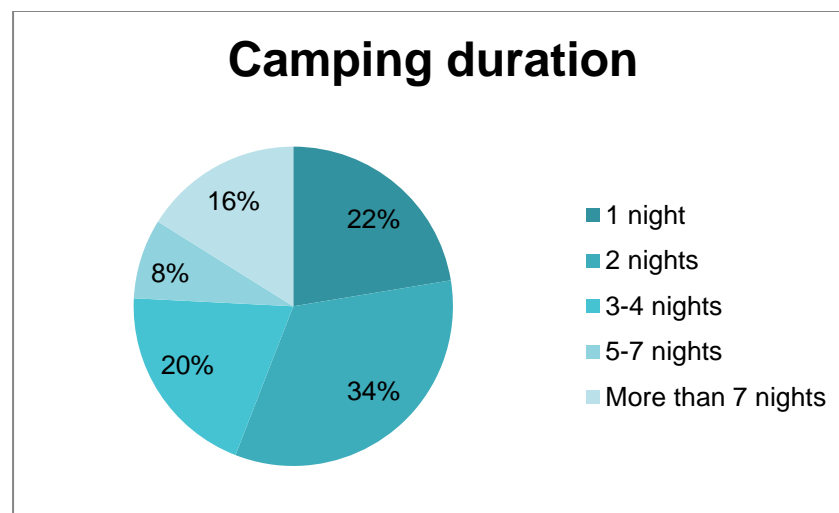


Figure 9: How many nights survey respondents have stayed

2 nights is the most common duration for campers, and 5-7 nights the least (Figure 9). The other three options are fairly evenly represented around 20% each. The data from this question is also represented in Figure 1.

### 3.10 Question 10

“If you answered yes to question 8, why did you choose Reid’s Farm?”

160 people answered “yes” to question 8. The most common reasons they stated for camping at Reid’s Farm are highlighted in Figure 10.

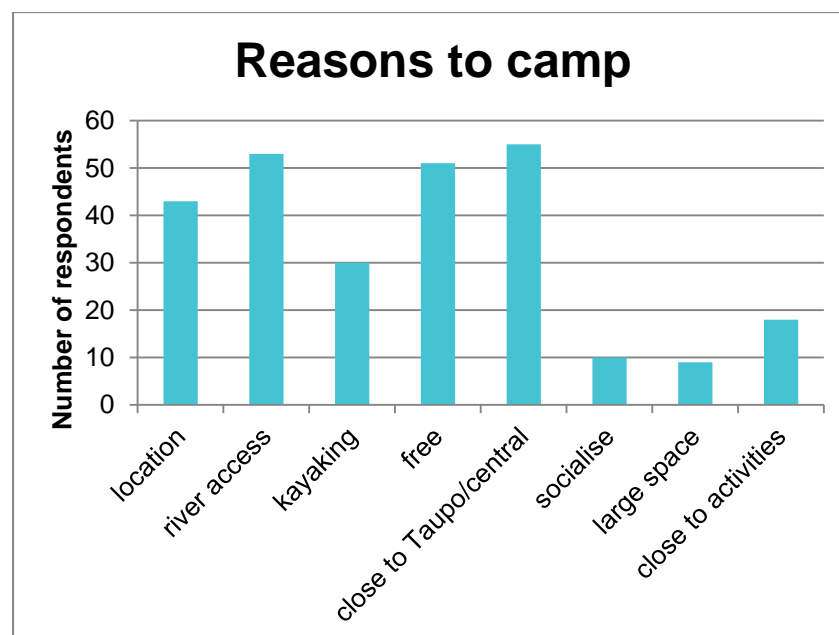
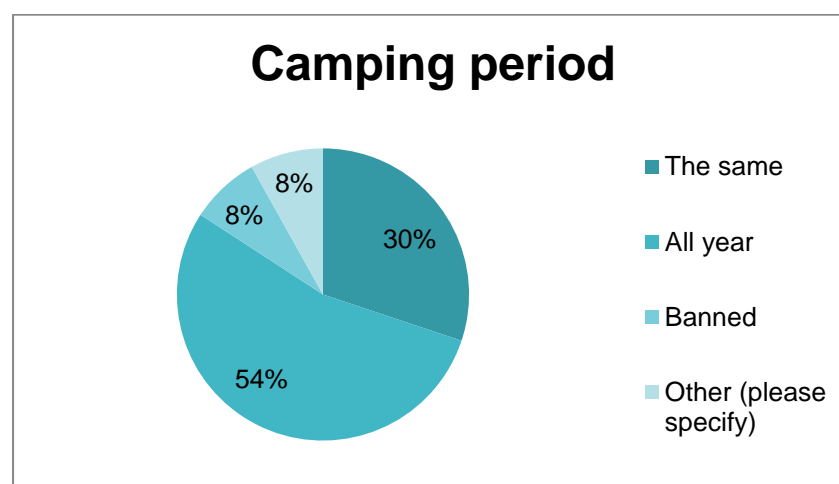


Figure 10: Reasons why survey participants chose to camp at the reserve

### 3.11 Question 11

“Currently overnight camping is allowed between 1 October and 30 April. Whether you have camped there or not, would you like the camping period to be...”



**Figure 11: Survey respondents' preferences for camping duration at the reserve**

84% of Respondents generally approve of camping, with the majority suggesting that year round camping is a good idea (Figure 11).

Those who requested camping be banned were primarily occasional (1-2 times per year) users of the reserve. They valued river access for kayaking and being able to enjoy a beautiful spot, and had concerns about rubbish, camper mess and antisocial behaviour.

People who chose “Other” commented about poor camper behaviour, the need for wardens, camping limits and site improvements, regardless of the camping period.

### 3.12 Question 12

“Whether you have camped there or not, how do you think the camping experience could be improved? (choose all that apply).”

57% of people thought the camping experience could be improved with a warden and 53% would like improved toilet/shower facilities (Figure 12). Two people also suggested running the reserve more like a DOC campsite, and recommended Albert Town and Matata sites as examples.

83 of the people surveyed supported a camping fee. However, 155 people would like to see a camping warden in place. Respondents who are okay with paying to camp are from the older age brackets (31-80). Younger age ranges (16-30) are seen as less happy to pay. Those respondents who support a fee for camping also consistently suggested better facilities and a warden.

The crowding issue raised in question 6 is echoed here with 83 people who agree with limiting camping to a dedicated area. 40 of them also agree to limiting the number of campers.

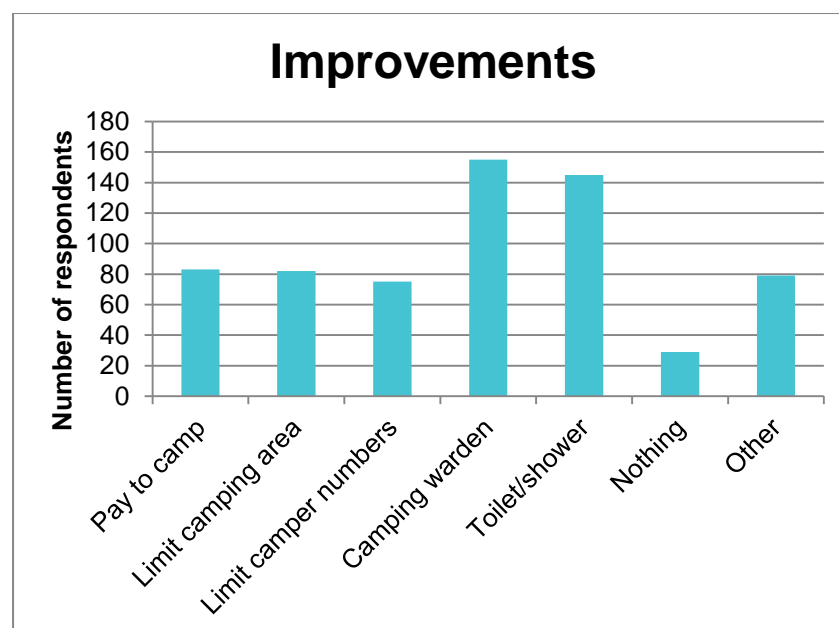


Figure 12: Suggested improvements to the camping experience at the reserve

The few people who said “nothing” in response to site improvements were those who want camping at the Reserve to remain free and who appreciate the basic nature of camping there (e.g. limited facilities). However, they did want some level of control like a warden or some way to ensure campers are certified self-contained to remedy camper mess.

Those who chose “Other” suggested (or took the opportunity to reiterate responses from earlier questions) better site maintenance, a warden or an alternative monitoring solution, limits to camper numbers, two people would prefer no camping at the reserve, and some support camping fees.

## Observations

There appears to be some disconnect between wanting a warden or some kind of monitoring, and how much it might cost. Most of the people suggesting fees for camping are older. Discussions around fees may need to include advantages and disadvantages to various age groups so youth, or other demographic groups, are not inadvertently excluded from the reserve. Fees can help fund the improvements people want, like wardens, showers, and general upgrades.

The DOC camping grounds that were suggested as good management examples generally have a toilet block, rubbish collection, and a large shelter with benches, running water and sinks. Fees are charged per person per night through their online/DOC office booking system.

Ecological issues were not directly discussed but can be interpreted from many of the survey responses. For example, poor camper behaviour like washing in the river and toileting in the bushes can affect the ecosystem health of the river and river margins.

Recreation issues were not discussed in response to this question.

## 3.13 Question 13

“Do you have any other thoughts about the future management of Reid's Farm? Please specify.”

Responses were mixed, but common themes included:

- The need for a warden/monitoring
- Fee vs. no fee for camping
- Upgrading facilities
- Improved site layout

13 people preferred the reserve remain free for campers and 18 would welcome a fee. People who wanted it to remain free were mixed (rare/frequent/occasional) users and those who welcomed a fee were primarily occasional (once or twice a year) users.

7 people requested no camping at the reserve, and 5 people thought no improvements were necessary, but 2 of them also acknowledged better monitoring could be good.

13 respondents want to see a better site layout for safety and usability, including separating the camper and tent areas.

40 people repeated the need for a warden or some kind of regular monitoring, 18 would like to see better management in general, and 9 people suggested it could be run like a DOC campground.

17 people specifically mentioned improving the toilet/shower facilities. Picnic tables and shelters were mentioned, in line with the suggestions to operate the reserve more like a DOC camping ground.

One person suggested making a bridleway and links to the nearby cycling areas. One kayaker suggested upgrading the kayak launch area for kayaks and other activities because it is very steep.

## Observations

A thread running through questions 5, 6, and 13 responses is that Reid's Farm is valued for its beauty and simplicity so while some upgrades would be welcome, too much development (like turning it into a motor camp) may not be appropriate or acceptable.

While not common suggestions, the comments about making a bridleway, connecting to cycling activities and improving kayaking courses stand out as the few that discuss strengthening physical connections to other areas.

Ecological topics are indirectly raised in question 13. For example, campers polluting the river by washing in and toileting near it could be addressed with better toilet and shower facilities, onsite education, and the presence of a warden. Improvements to the kayak launch area could prevent excess mud entering the river at that point. Proximity to other activities in the area is a reason why people choose to camp at Reid's Farm (question 10). Creating a bridleway or links to cycling areas (or similar) could improve the user experience, and could be an opportunity to focus on the connecting users to the ecological corridor and increase conservation participation.

## 3.14 Question 14

Respondents identified themselves as:

Male 57.4%

Female 42.6%

## 3.15 Question 15

“What is your age?”

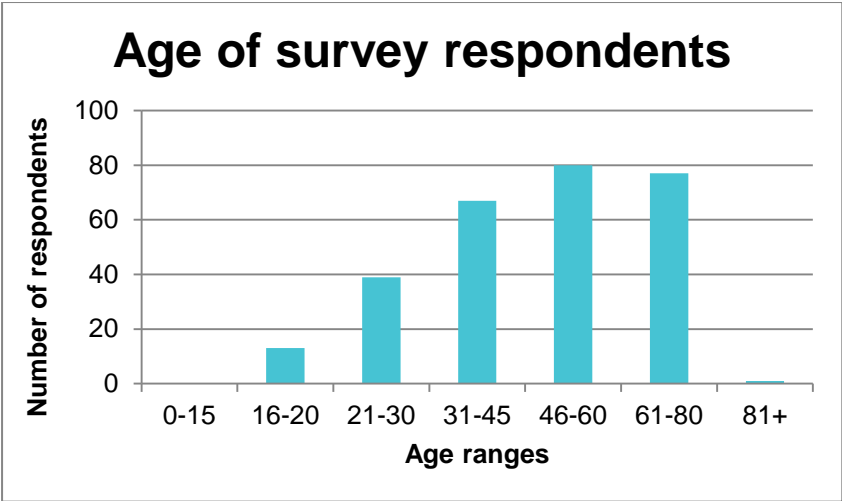


Figure 13: Age ranges of survey respondents

3.16 Question 16

“Where do you live?”

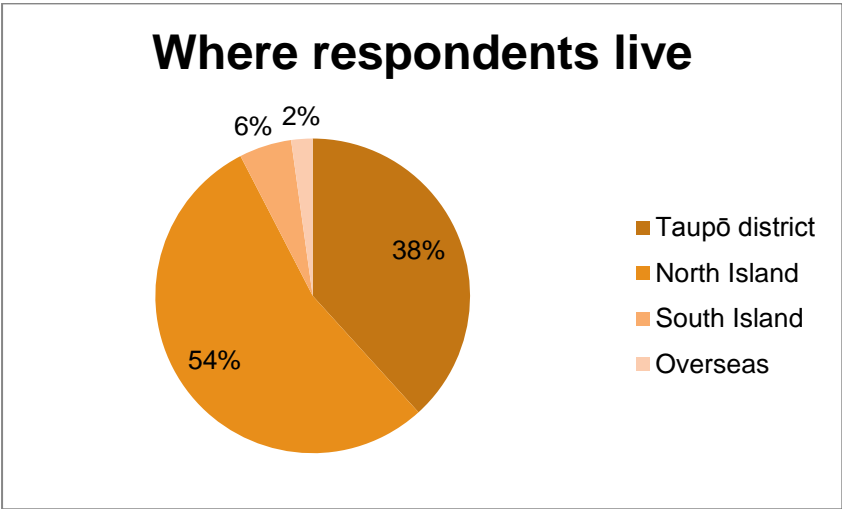


Figure 14: Where survey respondents live

Survey respondents were primarily from the North Island and Taupo district, with just a handful from the South Island and overseas (Figure 14). Further analysis shows that visitors from Taupo were generally younger (31-60 years) than those from the North Island (46-80 years) (Figure 15).

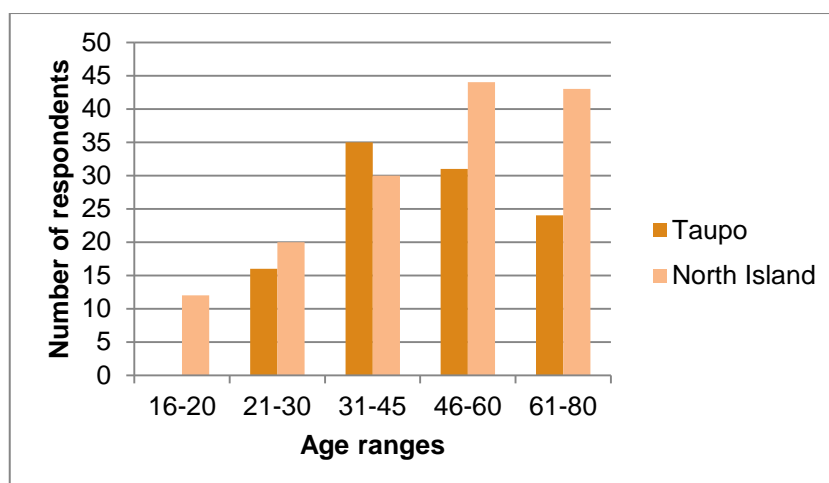


Figure 15: Comparison of Taupo and North Island visitors' ages

### 3.17 Limitations

There are some limitations to the data collected between 22 July and 19 August 2016 as follows:

The volume of people who currently use the reserve is unknown as user registration is not required.

Overseas visitors and youth (to age 20) may be under represented in survey data because it was conducted during winter. More youth and overseas visitors may generally use reserves in the summer months.

Conversely, older age brackets may be over represented because they potentially have more leisure time year round/are retired and can potentially use reserves during non-peak periods.

School group respondents were over 21, so school aged users of the reserve are likely underrepresented in the survey data.

There were no ecological or cultural questions in the survey, but the Working Group discussed these opportunities and observations.

## 4 Analysis of email, letters and Facebook comments

Similar to the survey data, the five emails and one letter show support for camping in the reserve with the additional oversight of a warden, providing fire safety education and limiting camping to a specific location. One email also supports landscape restoration at the reserve.

Facebook comments were mainly about the ownership of the reserve. Other comments were generally in line with survey responses seeking better monitoring, and some general improvements. There was a mix of people who support camping and those who want it banned at the reserve.

## 5 Analysis of Working Group feedback

The purpose of the working group was to provide informed community input and advice on the review of the reserve management plan, and consider the various types of consultation undertaken.

The working group was made up of key stakeholder representatives of groups associated with Reid's Farm Reserve. These groups included:

- Department of Conservation;
- Rauhoto Land Rights Committee;



- NZ Police;
- Maori Wardens;
- Destination Great Lake Taupō;
- Holiday Parks Association;
- NZ Motor Caravan Association;
- Canoe and Kayak Taupō;
- Tourism Lake Taupō; and
- Greening Taupō.

Residential landowners adjacent to the reserve were also invited to attend the workshop meetings.

The working group was an important group to generate and test visions, values and options for the reserve and its management.

## 5.1 Working Group Outcomes

The working group had three workshops throughout the process. Minutes of the workshops are attached in Appendix 2. In summary:

- Workshop 1 discussed the issues, observations, and opportunities of Reid's Farm.
- Workshop 2 discussed the outcome of the public consultation, and the suggested vision and recommendations of the working group for Reid's Farm.
- Workshop 3 discussed the draft recommended plan structure, vision, concept plan and associated policy direction for the reserve.

The following sections summarise the working group's suggested vision and recommendations for Reid's Farm Reserve.

## 5.2 Workshop Vision

The workshop developed the following key words about the vision for Reid's Farm;

- Community and family friendly
- Safe
- Something to be proud of
- Ecological connectivity
- Unique destination
- Strong sense of Manaakitanga and Kaitiaakitanga
- Recreation corridor
- River access
- Respect the environment
- Integrated recreation with the district
- Open areas for camping

Once the workshop had a chance to consider the public suggestions and feedback, they developed the following suggested vision for the reserve:

Reid's Farm Recreation Reserve is a place that locals and visitors can be proud of and reflects the important cultural, community and environmental values which make the place special and unique.

The reserve provides for a range of high quality and well managed nature based land and water recreation activities and river access experiences to locals and visitors.

Those people using the reserve do so in a way that is safe, respectful and enjoyable, and leave with positive memorable experiences.

## 5.3 Workshop Recommendations

Throughout the workshop process the group compiled a list of issues, opportunities and recommendations for the future management of the reserve. These included noting the issues, observations and opportunities. They then set out a set of suggested recommendations for the management of the reserve. These are summarised in the following sections by topic.

### **General Reserve Management**

#### **Issues/Observations**

- Need to consider what the role of the reserve is in Taupō context.
- Day visitors to the reserve are not well represented or understood in discussions to date.
- The varied use of the reserve is challenging
- The use is very seasonal – how do people understand peak use vs low use periods and impacts.
- There are people using the reserve for parties – disturbing other users
- The busy New Year's period is challenging
- 1 Tonne of rubbish is collected per day in peak season
- Policing the liquor ban is challenging along with the antisocial behaviour
- Health and safety concerns with alcohol and drug use in the reserve
- There appears to be domestic rubbish dumping in the reserve
- The high volume of people means that facilities are needed

#### **Opportunities**

- The scenic qualities make the reserve a potential high value destination for the district
- Good surrounding recreation opportunities to connect into, such as biking tracks and scenic recreation.
- The Kayak slalom site has opportunities to enhance the use in the reserve
- Are there alternative funding opportunities? E.g. private companies/ public funding.
- Consider opportunities to amalgamate Reserve Management Plan with Wairakei Tourist Park and Huka Falls site.
- Attract users to the reserve who contribute positively
- Positive and active communications

#### **Recommendations**

- Clarify who to contact for unlawful behaviour
- Consider commercial sponsorship
- Connect the reserve to other walkways and cycle ways
- Suggestion to pilot the proposed plan before it is adopted for this season.

## **Camping**

### **Issues/Observations**

- Not clear who enforces camping behaviour.
- Campers are not currently covering the cost of reserve management required for camping facilities.
- Issues with free camping and with charging a fee.
- What is the optimal charge for camping?
- Loss of amenity and public use to locals from long term camping.
- Management decisions could displace users to other locations in the district, these decisions need to be aware of these flow on effects.
- Campers are using the river for cleaning.
- Toileting in the reserve away from facilities.

### **Opportunities**

- Keen to see camping continue.
- Potential for campers register online?
- Camping away from river – better define camping areas
- Potential for council to lease the area to commercial campground
- Raise awareness and educate freedom campers\
- Retain a place for freedom camping but have it in confined areas and open – CPTED principles

### **Recommendations**

- Have a peak on site manager – that is funded through user pays
- Reduce the maximum night camping from 28 days to 4 days (3 nights) to minimise antisocial behaviour.
- Consider what the use is for – nature camping vs commercial campground
- Consider when adding charges, the change in ability to fine/prosecute. No camping fee means that instant fines can be laid. Camping fee means that instant fines can't be laid, it is a longer prosecution process.
- Strongly control over the problem/peak use – 2 weeks up to 1 month.
- Council employs security guards over the problem/peak use
- Year round camping although the reserve can be closed to overnight camping if required.
- Ensure that the reserve is rehabilitated after camping season.

## **Historical / Cultural Connections**

### **Issues/Observations**

- Information on cultural/historical values of the reserve is not clear, or is missing from the reserve.
- There is a misconception about the naming history of the site that should be clarified.

### **Opportunities**

- There is a cultural history to the site.
- Opportunities to educate and inform reserve users

### **Recommendations**

- Promote the cultural history and significance of the reserve through signage and design elements
- Consider renaming the reserve to Karetoto to reflect the cultural and historical meaning. May need to have dual name for a while to ease transition.
- Ensure that any physical works are undertaken after a cultural assessment.

### **Environment**

#### **Issues/Observations**

- The environment is currently neglected
- Weed trees and shrubs appear out of control
- The area to the south of reserve is dominated by wilding pine
- Environmental degradation at the river margin where access to river is obtained.

#### **Opportunities**

- There opportunities to protect the river, create ecological and recreation linkages
- The area to the south of the reserve acts as a buffer for residents to the south.

#### **Recommendations**

- Retain the areas to the south and north use for revegetation and buffer for neighbours to the south.
- Increase weed removal in the reserve.
- Enhance ecological linkages along the river corridor and native plant restoration.

### **Reserve Layout**

#### **Issues/Observations**

- Top area is locked – defers campers to the bottom area by the river
- Uneven surfaces – difficult to enjoy the reserve
- Manage access
- Area on left (south) is underdeveloped (buffer for the neighbours)
- Locked gates at the top
- No sign on the gate to say closed
- The roading infrastructure

#### **Opportunities**

- Create dedicated interaction spots to river – manage river access
- Enhance for all to enjoy
- Different areas for development; e.g. infrastructure, playground for kids
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)
- Good signage
- Landscaping and infrastructure improvement

#### **Recommendations**

- Concentrate activity at the centre of the reserve with a higher level maintenance (vegetation)

- Have overnight camping set back near the road and not on lower part of the reserve.
- Minimise vehicle access to the reserve – have walking tracks to other areas
- Limit vehicle access from the river margin – 20-30m and retain the lower area of the reserve for day use only.
- Have well defined areas for the different uses – legible design
- Ensure families are catered for
- Move the facilities so that they are appropriate for the use – e.g. shower stalls are at the camp sites – to further reinforce the anticipated location of activities.
- Have a main carpark set back from the river, maintain kayak river access.
- Visually open the reserve to the road frontage for passive surveillance.
- Have buffer areas for camping to the surrounding areas.
- Reduce vehicle access to the river margins except for kayak areas.

The views and recommendations recorded through this working group process were important considerations in informing the review of the plan. The group functioned effectively and the discussion around key issues provided a very useful forum to test the values, views and options associated with the effective management of the reserve. These discussions were well informed by technical assessments and also the results of the wider consultation process.

## 6 Van Companies

Overseas visitors and youth (to age 20) were under represented in survey data. It is acknowledged that self-driven 'van' campers make up a large percentage of these younger international tourists who use the reserve in summer. As an important user group it was considered necessary to better understand the preferences of these users. Representatives of a couple of these companies (Spaceships and ###) were interviewed to get more information on their customers.

Van campers spend on average four weeks in New Zealand and spend approximately \$100 a day per person. As there are a lot of things to do in Taupō and they generally spend 1-2 nights in the area.

Van campers prefer to use campsites which are located in close proximity to attractions and have a nice setting. They also will pay to stay at camping areas provided that there are facilities, primarily toilets and places to wash dishes etc. Showers are not expected put shower stalls (i.e. somewhere to hang a solar shower) will be used. Feedback has shown that the majority of the Spaceship campers will use such areas for a few days but will also go to more well equipped areas (such as Holiday Parks etc.) where they can get a hot shower and wash their clothes as well.

Feedback suggests that van campers are also keen to get involved in local 'on-site' ecological restoration work and could assist in any such projects that may be planned for Reids Farm.

## 7 Iwi and hapu engagement

Iwi and Hapu were approached directly on how they wish to be engaged with as part of the management plan review process. Two representatives of Rauhoto hapu formed part of the stakeholders group and attended workshops. In addition, they were met with separately to discuss specific matters. The general themes which emerged from these discussions were as follows:

- A name change should be considered by TDC to one that better reflects the history of the site.
- Ecological restoration activities for the site is important to hapu and restoring parts of the site to have a greater ecological value are supported. Hapu would like to be involved in this work and welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with others such as Greening Taupo and the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association etc.

- Water quality is important, and hapu support actions by TDC which would stop uses (i.e. bathing and washing dishes etc.) that would degrade the water quality of the Waikato river. Similarly setting back camping from the water's edge is supported as a way to reduce the potential impact of uses on the river.
- The histories of the people could be told on site, however if any information is developed it will need to be done so with local hapu to ensure that it is appropriate and accurate.
- The revised plan should include statutory acknowledgments that arise out of the claims process.

## 8 Conclusions

The reserve represents different things to different people. To residents of Taupo district it is a financial and maintenance responsibility as well as an important day use facility. To visitors of the reserve it provides a range of recreation opportunities but needs physical and social improvements. To businesses and tourism operators it holds potential for new or improved recreation products. Conservationists and hapū see restoration possibilities and the potential to connect Reid's Farm with the wider Waikato River ecological corridor.

### 8.1 Reserve use

According to the survey, people mainly use Reid's Farm for kayaking, camping, swimming or floating, and socialising. Those surveyed like the reserve for its beautiful location, river access, camping, free entry, for socialising, and its proximity to Taupo.

The majority of users seem to be from the North Island and the Taupo district, though this could change if a survey is conducted during summer when more people are likely to visit the Taupo region. They stay between 1-4 nights, and come to the reserve with family, school groups, or other activity groups.

Taupo district respondents are more frequent users of the reserve who generally support camping activities there. They would prefer to see more controls for camping, including employing a warden, paying to camp, and limiting the areas where people can camp (thereby limiting the total number of campers allowed). Toilet and shower facilities would be welcome.

North Island respondents are occasional users (once or twice a year) who would like to see better controls over camping including fees, a warden, toilet and shower facilities and year round camping.

### 8.2 User Behaviour

Poor camper behaviour was one of the main negative issues raised by survey respondents and by the working group.

- Antisocial behaviour – People witnessed several instances of drug use, drug selling, excessive drunkenness, intimidation and theft. Discussions about how to address it included wardens, camper registration, police, and using CPTED to upgrade the reserve layout.
- Rubbish – Comments ranged from rubbish not being collected often enough, to campers just not using the bins.
- Camper mess and poor camper behaviour – Survey participants objected to the poor behaviour of campers who were loud or rude to others, did not use rubbish bins, cleaned bodies and dishes in the river, and toileted in the bushes.

It is noted that a warden and an upgraded toilet/shower block could potentially take care of most of those issues.

## 8.3 Camping

The majority of the survey participants support camping at the reserve, with differences in opinion about whether it should be permitted year round (54%), or only from 1 October to 30 April each year (30%). Just under 8% think camping should be banned at the reserve.

30% of respondents would welcome a camping fee. While that's not a majority of survey participants, support for a camping fee is linked to the survey's wider support for a warden (56.8%) and upgraded facilities (53%).

Facebook commenters generally supported camping at the reserve with some sort of registration or monitoring to address poor and antisocial behaviour.

## 8.4 Ecology

The survey did not ask specific ecology questions. Survey feedback relating to ecosystem topics centred on poor camper behaviour – washing bodies and dishes in the river, and toileting in the bushes leading to a polluted river.

Some kayakers suggested upgrading the kayak launch spot, citing muddiness as a launching issue. During peak kayaking seasons, excess mud entering the river from the launch area could potentially cause problems for river health. One respondent requested that the bush be protected/fenced, and one of the emails suggested landscape restoration of the reserve be undertaken (native plantings).

## 8.5 Recreation

The survey did not ask specific questions about the kinds of recreation people enjoyed while using the reserve. However, responses to questions 5 (“what did you like”) and 10 (“Why did you choose to camp there”) reveal many of the recreation activities respondents do there.

In answering question 5, people mentioned doing the following recreation activities at the reserve (Figure 16).

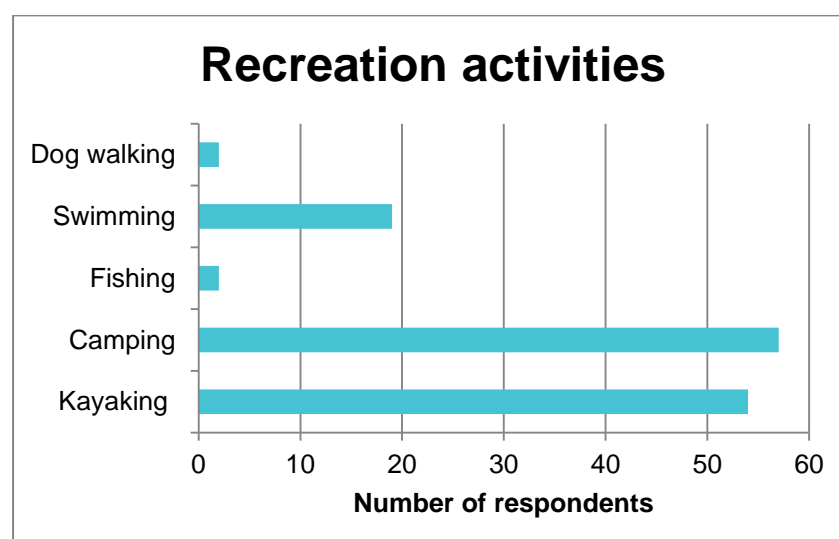


Figure 16: Recreation activities mentioned in answers to Q5

Responses to question 10 reveal that people like to camp at the reserve because of the kayaking (30/160 respondents), general river access (53/160), and the proximity to other activities in the area (18/160).

Responses to question 13 provided some suggestions about improving recreation opportunities including:

1. Improve the kayaking slalom gates

2. Upgrade the kayaking launch spot for kayaks and other users
3. Consider making a bridle trail and a connection to the nearby cycling activities

## 8.6 Cultural connections

The survey did not include specific cultural questions, and none of the survey respondents brought up cultural issues associated with the reserve. While there were no ethnicity questions it is possible that Māori are underrepresented in the survey data.

The working group and direct engagement with hapū identified cultural history associated with the reserve as something that could be better promoted. A cultural assessment is also being prepared by local hapū to better inform the development of the review.

A change of name of the reserve to one that is more representative of the cultural history of the site has been raised a number of times. It was noted that there was some confusion by survey respondents and by Facebook commenters about the ownership history of the reserve. Many people believe the Reid family gifted the reserve to the Council. Title searches have since clarified that the reserve was transferred from the crown to the Council, and the Council subsequently leased the land to the Reid Family.

## 8.7 Reserve layout and facilities

The development feedback from the survey included suggestions for an improved shower and toilet block and more frequent rubbish removal during peak periods. Suggested changes to the site layout sought to separate campers and tents, address fast and dangerous driving, general tidying (one email specifically mentioned doing a landscape restoration of the reserve) and internal road infrastructure improvements.

Kayakers suggested an improved launch area that incorporates steps should include moving tent areas away from the launch, so people don't have to walk through someone's living space to get to and from the river.

The working group came up with those same topics and also noted the opportunities for education, and connections – cultural, ecological and recreation - to the surrounding areas. They specifically mention using CPTED to incorporate personal safety into any layout improvements.



## Appendix 1: Survey questions

1. Have you ever been to Reid's Farm?
2. If you answered 'No' to Question 1, why?
3. If you answered 'Yes' to Question 1, with whom?
  - a. by yourself
  - b. with friends and/or family
  - c. school group
  - d. activity group
  - e. Other (please specify)
4. If you answered 'Yes' to Question 1, how many times have you visited?
  - a. Once
  - b. Frequently (once a month or more)
  - c. Occasionally (once or twice a year)
  - d. Rarely (less than once a year)
5. If you answered 'Yes' to Question 1, what did you like about Reid's Farm? Please specify.
6. If you answered 'Yes' to Question 1, what did you not like about Reid's Farm? Please specify.
7. If you answered 'Yes' to Question 1, have you ever seen any antisocial behaviour? Please specify.
8. Have you ever camped at Reid's Farm?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
9. If yes, for how many nights?
  - a. 1 night
  - b. 2 nights
  - c. 3-4 nights
  - d. 5-7 nights
  - e. More than 7 nights
10. Why did you choose to camp at Reid's Farm?
11. Currently overnight camping is allowed between 1 October and 30 April. Whether you have camped there or not, would you like the camping period to be:
  - a. The same
  - b. All year
  - c. Banned
  - d. Other (please specify)
12. Whether you have camped there or not, how do you think the camping experience could be improved? (choose all that apply)
  - a. Pay to camp
  - b. Limit camping to a dedicated area
  - c. Limit the number of campers
  - d. Camping warden
  - e. Toilet/shower facilities
  - f. Nothing
  - g. Other (please specify)
13. Do you have any other thoughts about the future management of Reid's Farm? Please specify.
14. Are you:
  - a. Male
  - b. Female
15. What is your age:
  - a. 0-15
  - b. 16-20
  - c. 21-30
  - d. 31-45
  - e. 46-60
  - f. 61-80
  - g. 81+
16. Where do you live?
  - a. Taupo district

## Reid's Farm Reserve Management Plan Review – Consultation Report

- b. North Island
  - c. South Island
  - d. Overseas
17. If you would like to be kept informed on the development of the reserve management plan, please fill in your contact details here:
- a. Name
  - b. Email address

## Appendix 2 - Minutes of Working Group Meetings

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### MINUTES OF WORKSHOP 1:

SUBJECT	Reid's Farm Reserve Management Plan – Workshop 1, on behalf of Taupō District Council
DATE, LOCATION	AC Baths Function Room, 1-3pm Friday 8 July, 2016
PRESENT	Refer attached attendance list

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1. Overview
  - 1.1. Purpose of the workshop – to begin the process of reviewing the Reid's Farm reserve management plan
  - 1.2. For the working group to help the council understand the community values
2. Introductions
  - 2.1. Perception Planning – Rowan Sapsford and Kara Scott; undertaking the review on behalf of Taupō District Council
  - 2.2. Round table introductions of the working group – see attached list of attendees.
3. About Reserve Management Plans
  - 3.1. Rowan outlined the definition and purpose of a recreation reserve and requirements for a reserve management plan.
  - 3.2. Reid's farm reserve management plan was developed in 1997 and due for review.
4. The Review Process
  - 4.1. Key dates for the process were outlined – see attached timetable.
  - 4.2. Includes development of a background report and recommendations and then development of a draft management plan for public submissions.
5. Character Assessment
  - 5.1. Kara outlined the key features of Reid's farm – vegetation, infrastructure, structures, activities, topography, setting and context.
6. Issues and Opportunities
  - 6.1. Round table discussion of issues – refer attached notes.
  - 6.2. Attendees then split into 4 groups to discuss issues, opportunities, and observations before reporting back to the workshop – refer attached notes.
7. Vision
  - 7.1. The workshop brainstormed the vision for the reserve – see attached notes.
8. Next Steps
  - 8.1. From Friday 22 July to Friday 19 August- informal suggestions from the public on the reserve
  - 8.2. PPL to start drafting background and recommendations report and hold second workshop in September – attendees to be notified closer to the date.
  - 8.3. Information to go live on the Taupō District Council website from 22 July.

### Attendance List:

Amelia Willis – Department of Conservation

Aroha Henry – Rauhoto Land Rights Com.

Bernhard Chrustowski – Taupō District Councillor

Damian Coutts – Destination Great Lake Taupō

Eraita Ann Clarke – Rauhoto Land Rights

Fergus Brown – Holiday Parks Assoc.

Geoff Rayner – Neighbour

Hadley Tattle – Taupō District Council Staff

Hamish Funnell – Taupō Tandem Skydiving

James Imlach – NZ Motor Caravan Association

Jane Budge – Taupō District Council Staff

John Funnell – TLT

John Williamson – Taupō District Councillor

Kara Scott – Perception Planning Ltd

Laura Duncan – Canoe and Kayak

Marie Pierce – Maori Warden

Nathan Mourie – Taupō District Council Staff

Paul Green – Greening Taupō

Rowan Sapsford – Perception Planning Ltd

Sara Foster – NZ Police

Sarah Conway – NZ Police

Shane Taylor – Neighbour

Shona and Ken Bleakley – Neighbour

Tony Jeurissen – NZ Police

Apologies:

John Gibbs – NZ Motor Caravan Association

## Workshop Notes

ISSUES	OPPORTUNITIES	OBSERVATIONS	VISION
18 tonnes of rubbish collected per day in peak season	Protect river, create ecological and recreation linkages	Manage access	Something to be proud of
Roading infrastructure	Camping away from river – better define camping areas	Area on left (south) is underdeveloped (buffer for the neighbours)	Safe
Tourism – domestic rubbish dumping	Campers register online	Gateway	Family friendly
Environmental degradation	Council lease the area to commercial campground	Very seasonal – how do people understand peak use vs low use periods and impacts.	Respect – environment
Health and safety – alcohol and drugs	Alternative funding	Management decisions could displace users to other locations in the district. Need to be aware of these flow on effects.	Waikato corridor enhancement
Policing liquor ban – antisocial behaviour	Good signage	What is the role of the reserve in Taupo context.	Ecological connectivity
Weed trees and shrubs	Attract those who contribute positively	Day visitors not well represented or understood in discussions to date.	Appropriate infrastructure – washing, roading, shelter, pavers
Loss of amenity and public use to locals from long term camping	Kayak slalom site	Volume of people means that facilities are needed	Playground
The varied use of the reserve is challenging	Positive and active communications	Free vs \$	Community friendly
Can't look at the reserve management in isolation with wider Taupo	Create dedicated interaction spots to river – manage river access	Locket gates at the top	Day visitors and campers
Campers using the river for cleaning	Enhance for all to enjoy	Who enforces? Council – camping and litter, liquor – police	Unique destination
What is the optimal charge for camping?	Different areas for development; e.g. infrastructure, playground for kids	Locals have parties – disturbs campers	Strong sense of Manaakitanga and Kaitiakitanga

ISSUES	OPPORTUNITIES	OBSERVATIONS	VISION
Currently neglected	Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)	High value destination for the district	Hybrid management – flexible to accommodate change in numbers, consistent
Top area is locked – defers campers to the bottom area by the river	Amalgamate Reserve Management Plan with Wairakei Tourist Park and Huka Falls site.	No sign on the gate to say closed	Open year round – all uses
New Year's behaviour	Connect to surrounding recreation opportunities.		Rolling areas for camping areas to recover
Uneven surfaces – difficult to enjoy the reserve	Rename the reserve		Employment opportunities for management
Toileting	Promote cultural history and significance		Concession opportunities for recreation – be bold
	Raise awareness and educate freedom campers		Recreation corridor
	Landscaping and infrastructure improvement		Integrated recreation with district - e.g. biking, camping, kayaking, picnicking, walking
	Funding options e.g. private companies/ public funding		Structured use of areas – family friendly camp areas
	Place for freedom camping but in confined areas and open – CPTED principles		Safe non-vehicle access to town
	7 day stay		Clear consistent signage
	Peak on site manager – user pays		River access area free of camping
	Higher level maintenance (vegetation)		CPTED – open areas for camping.
	Clarify who to contact for unlawful behaviour		
	Commercial sponsorship		

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MINUTES OF WORKSHOP 2:

SUBJECT	Reid's Farm Reserve Management Plan – Workshop 2, on behalf of Taupō District Council
DATE, LOCATION	AC Baths Function Room, 9:30 -11am Friday 2 August, 2016
PRESENT	Refer attached attendance list

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1. Overview

1.1. Purpose of the workshop is to;

- 1.1.1. Feedback the results of the public survey and consultation to the working group
- 1.1.2. Enable the working group to input into the vision for Reid's Farm, and the recommendations for the management plan
- 1.1.3. Identify where further consultation may occur, and identify any further issues.

2. Introductions

- 2.1. Perception Planning Ltd (PPL) – Rowan Sapsford and Kara Scott; undertaking the review on behalf of Taupo District Council.
- 2.2. Council staff present – Nick Carroll, John Ridd, Hadley Tattle, Nathan Mourie
- 2.3. Round table introductions of the working group – see attached list of attendees.

3. Background Report

- 3.1. Rowan provided an overview of the workshop, and information in the background report currently being developed by PPL.
- 3.2. Discussion was held over the need to ensure the background report and progress on freedom camping bylaw work together, to ensure that the wider context is considered.
- 3.3. Hadley reiterated that the formal consultation for Reid's Farm and Freedom camping bylaw will run concurrently.
- 3.4. Nick noted that the development of the management plan can occur independently to the Freedom camping bylaw
- 3.5. Nick also noted that Council is currently looking into a cultural assessment for the area.

4. Informal Consultation Feedback

- 4.1. Kara provided an overview of the consultation received to date and the key findings from the public survey, noting the limitations of the study.
- 4.2. A need to further understand the needs of the younger demographic was highlighted, particularly those who use van-style accommodation and backpackers. PPL will investigate further by talking directly to 'van' companies and will report back at next workshop.
- 4.3. General discussion was held around the results of the consultation.
- 4.4. John Ridd asked for a view on whether or not camping should continue on site and whether it should be restricted to self-contained. The general view is that camping should continue for all users provided that it is managed over peak periods. John Ridd will do further work on camping for the forthcoming summer with stakeholders.
- 4.5. There was a general view that the antisocial behaviour was limited to a very small amount of users during the peak period.

5. Vision

- 5.1. Rowan outlined a suggested vision statement for the reserve based on the workshop and survey feedback to date (refer PowerPoint presentation).

- 5.2. Additional words to this statement from the workshop included; 'respectful, integrated, connected, river access'. The group favoured nature based recreation activities, and did not envisage motorised recreation activities for the reserve.
6. Recommendations
  - 6.1. Rowan outlined a suggested set of recommendations for the reserve management based on the workshop and survey feedback to date (refer PowerPoint presentation).
  - 6.2. The workshop then compiled a list of further recommendations – see attached workshop notes – brainstorm suggested recommendations.
7. Other Matters
  - 7.1. Issue raised at workshop 1 about rubbish per day at peak times should be 1 tonne, not 18 tonnes that was recorded.
8. Next Steps
  - 8.1. PPL will continue to work on the background and recommendations report, and hold a third workshop in October – attendees to be notified closer to the date.
  - 8.2. Aiming to publicly notify the draft Reserve Management Plan in December 2016.

**Attendance List:**

Andrew Welch - Neighbour  
Bernhard Chrustowski – Taupō District Councillor  
Damian Coutts – Destination Great Lake Taupō  
Geoff Rayner – Neighbour  
Graeme Usher – Huka Lodge  
Hadley Tattle – Taupō District Council Staff  
John Funnell – Tourism Lake Taupō  
John Gibbs – NZ Motor Caravan Association  
John Ridd – Taupō District Council Staff  
John Williamson – Taupō District Councillor  
Kara Scott – Perception Planning Ltd  
Kerry Molloy – Huka Lodge  
Laura Duncan – Canoe and Kayak  
Lynda Nightingale – Huka Lodge  
Maggie Stewart – Taupō District Councillor  
Nathan Mourie – Taupō District Council Staff  
Nick Carroll – Taupō District Council Staff  
Rowan Sapsford – Perception Planning Ltd  
Tony Jeurissen – NZ Police

**Appologies**

Aroha Henry – Rauhoto Land Rights Com.  
Fergus Brown – Holiday Parks Assoc.  
James Imlach – NZ Motor Caravan Association



## **MINUTES OF MEETING:**

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>Reid's Farm Reserve Management Plan – Workshop 3, on behalf of Taupo District Council</b>
<b>DATE, LOCATION</b>	<b>AC Baths Function Room, 1.00 – 3.00pm Friday 28 October, 2016</b>
<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>Refer attached attendance list</b>

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### 9. Overview

#### 10. Purpose of the workshop is to;

- Introduce recommended changes to the reserve management plan to the group, and provide feedback to Taupo District Council.
- Discuss the implementation issues and provide ideas on options
- Discuss the proposed concept plan for the reserve.

#### 11. Overall changes

- The review process and initial consultation has resulted in the policies and provisions of the current reserve management plan to remain the same, with some changes to address specific issues to improve the usability, clarity and effectiveness of the management plan.
- Recommended changes are around timing and location of specific activities such as overnight camping.
- Recommended changes to the use of the reserve as a result of workshop and informal consultation.

#### 12. Suggested Reserve Rename

- Recommendation to rename the reserve to be more reflective on its history and cultural significance, and remove the misconception that the reserve was previously owned and gifted by the Reid family. .
- The working group discussed the name Karetoto Reserve as suggested by representatives of Rauhoto land rights committee. The name was generally well received by the working group.
- If a name change is accepted by Council a recommendation was made to introduce the name change by using both names side by side as an initial transition. For instance Karetoto Reserve (Reid's Farm).

#### 13. Suggested Management Plan Changes

- The intention is to de-clutter the plan by removing background material that does not directly contribute to the effectiveness of the plan, and develop the plan so that it is value driven – key values are; recreation, environmental, social/cultural. Policies to align with these values.
- A vision statement has been developed by the working group based on the initial consultation process. The vision statement is intended to replace the objectives as a 'touchstone' statement to which the policies must achieve. The proposed vision statement was well received by the working group.
- Camping period is proposed to be reduced from 28 days under the current plan to 4 days in a 14 day period (3nights), and remove the no camping period in the off season. This was based on the initial consultation of length of stay by the majority of campers, and seen as a reasonable amount of time to freedom camp in the reserve. 28 days is seen as too long and difficult to enforce removal of long stay/semi-permanent occupation of the reserve. Nick noted that the date can be changed after adoption of the management plan, if use shows it should be changed.

- The camping duration was discussed at length by the working group, and concluded that 4 days is appropriate for freedom camping, along with camping over winter. They agreed that the council should still retain the right to close the reserve for camping, particularly if there is an identified management need, or areas require recovery from camping.

#### 14. Reserve Layout

- The working group discussed the location of camping and the initial concept plan based on the previous workshop. Having relooked at the concept the working group decided that all camping should be pulled back from the lower reserve area, and confined to the upper terrace adjacent to Huka Falls Road. This was due to environmental and cultural concerns for ongoing use of the river for camping purposes, such as cleaning, washing items, and camping by the river's edge.
- The working group preferred that camping be located in an area that is clearly demarcated from the day use – i.e. on the upper level of the reserve, so that it is clear where camping can and cannot occur, and this was also seen as a positive to assisting enforcement of camping areas.
- The working group also felt it more appropriate of the lower terrace to be available for day use, and to provide a more natural setting to reinforce the natural beauty of this part of the reserve near the river edge. This lower area would be locked from vehicle access at night. The Kayak club / kayaking use could still access a key from council if required.
- Overall the working group felt that protecting the cultural and environmental values of the river corridor were more important to the use of the reserve than enabling camping on the lower area, and creating a legible place where it is clear to see the camping locations.
- Provision for camping on the upper terrace would require appropriate facilities, and to create an attractive area, may require some earthworks and vegetation clearance to gain vistas to the river. Site drainage would also be required to remove potentially damp spots for campers. It was noted at the meeting, that any potential modification of the site must be subject to a cultural impact assessment.
- Under this revised concept; the existing overflow camping area to the south of the main entrance would be retained as overflow camping with appropriate facilities, and a direct walkway link to the lower area.
- Walkways within the wilding pine area to the south portion of the reserve were generally not supported due to concerns by local residents.

#### 15. Other Matters

#### 16. .

#### 17. Next Steps

- .Cultural impact assessment
- 8 November – Council workshop to discuss the draft reserve plan
- 13 December – adopt for consultation
- 16 January consultation period
- April/May Hearing

#### **Attendance List:**

Andrew Welch - Neighbour

Aroha Henry – Rauhoto Land Rights Committee

Damian Coutts – Destination Great Lake Taupo

Eraitā Ann Clarke – Rauhoto Land Rights Committee

Hadley Tattle – Taupo District Council Staff

Jane Budge – Taupo District Council Staff

Jenni Funnell - Neighbour

John Funnell – Tourism Lake Taupo

John Williamson – Taupo District Councillor

Kara Scott – Perception Planning Ltd

Leeann Loughlin – Rauhoto Land Rights Committee

Libby O'Brien – Taupo District Council Staff

Nick Carroll – Taupo District Council Staff

Paul Green – Greening Taupo

Tony Jeurissen – NZ Police

### **Apologies**

Rowan Sapsford – Perception Planning Ltd