

TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MOTUTERE RECREATION RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 107 TE HEUHEU STREET, TAUPŌ
ON THURSDAY, 29 AUGUST 2024 AT 4.30PM

PRESENT: Cr Danny Loughlin (in the Chair), Member Aroha French, Cr Sandra Greenslade, Member Maru Maniapoto, Mayor David Trewavas, Member Jade Wikaira

IN ATTENDANCE: General Manager Strategy and Environment (W Zander), Policy Manager (N Carroll), Iwi and Co-Governance Manager (D Rameka), Team Leader Resource Management / Reserve Planning (E O'Callaghan), Corporate Solicitor (F Bramwell), Senior Policy Advisor (K Scott), Policy Advisor (H Wood), Southern Lake Taupō Engagement Partner (M Isherwood), Iwi Engagement Partner (T Walker via MS Teams), Senior Solicitor (K Hollman via MS Teams), Digital Content Creator (C Hollinger via MS Teams), Senior Committee Advisor (K Watts)

MEDIA AND PUBLIC: 6 members of the public, Whakaata Māori (H Waikato), Motutere Bay Top 10 Holiday Park Lessee (J Tilton), Ngāti Te Rangīta ki Waitetoko representative (M Wikaira)

Notes: (i) Deputy Chair Jade Wikaira opened and closed the meeting with a karakia.

(ii) Chair Cr Danny Loughlin advised that Herewini Waikato from Whakaata Māori had requested to film the meeting from item 4.1 onwards.

(iii) Items were considered in the following order: 1, 2, 5.2, 3, 4.1, 5.3, 5.2

1 KARAKIA

2 WHAKAPĀHA | APOLOGIES

MRRMP202408/01 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Sandra Greenslade

Seconded: Member Aroha French

That the apology received from Cr Kevin Taylor be accepted.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution MRRMP202408/01 above.

5.2 MINOR LATE ITEM

MRRMP202408/02 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Danny Loughlin
Seconded: Mayor David Trewavas

That, pursuant to section 46A(7A) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the following minor item be added to the agenda and discussed at the meeting as it was not available at the time the agenda was circulated. The item is a minor matter relating to the general business of Taupō District Council. No resolution, decision, or recommendation may be made in respect of this item except to receive the information or refer it to a subsequent Council meeting.

- Public Forum

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution MRRMP202408/02 above.

3 NGĀ WHAKAPĀNGA TUKITUKI | CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

4 WHAKAMANATANGA O NGĀ MENETI | CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 ORDINARY MOTUTERE RECREATION RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN COMMITTEE MEETING - 25 JULY 2024

MRRMP202408/03 RESOLUTION

Moved: Member Jade Wikaira
Seconded: Member Maru Maniapoto

That the minutes of the Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan Committee meeting held on Thursday 25 July 2024 be approved and adopted as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution MRRMP202408/03 above.

5 NGĀ KAUPAPA HERE ME NGĀ WHAKATAUNGA | POLICY AND DECISION MAKING

5.1 APPROVAL TO CONSULT ON THE DRAFT MOTUTERE RECREATION RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Policy Manager acknowledged the project team consisting of both council staff and hapū that had done all the hard work.

He reminded members that the draft reserve management plan reflected the direction given by them through the workshops and the previous meeting. While drafting, it had become evident that information regarding the proposed camping expansion areas was not clear. These were identified in the report as proposed camping areas because they were changing the location of camping, and the proposed area 1 was at the back of the current campground. Members were asked to confirm if proposed area 1 would become available once the proposed day use area at the lakefront was available because it was not explicit in the resolution passed at the 25 July meeting.

The cultural assessment reported on sites of cultural significance and while there were currently no waahi tapu sites in the campground identified, there was potential of discovering sites. Officers were working with

hapū to narrow down the focus of the assessment to provide certainty. This did not need to hold up consultation and would be brought to the committee during the deliberations of submissions to the draft Reserve Management Plan (RMP).

There had been a lot of talk of timing and the future state of a shared use arrangement on the lakefront. The Policy Manager stressed that the current arrangement that was in place did not change until 2038 unless both parties, Council and the lessee, agreed to any changes. Officers had worked on the assumption that the shared use arrangement would not be created until 2038 but there was the possibility for it to happen earlier if the parties negotiated this.

The day use area would require investment by Council that had not been budgeted for. This included car parking for day users, boat trailers, furniture, and planting. Budgets would be reviewed in the next Long-term Plan in 2027. It was important to think of the pace of change and consider the reputational risk of removing all camping to turn it into a day use area, only to not provide facilities for this to be enabled.

The report highlighted extra information that had been provided following the 25 July meeting. The Policy Manager advised that members had the ability to consider this in the context of the hearing and deliberation process. Council would bring all feedback together for the committee to consider at once. It was important for members to go into the hearing and deliberation process with an open mind.

The engagement process would be from 3 September for 2 calendar months until 4 November. During that time, two open days were planned for 5 and 26 October. These provided an opportunity for people to come along and ask questions about the draft and what was or was not in it. It also provided an opportunity for the committee members to engage with the community.

Members confirmed their availability for hearings and deliberations to be held on 27 November and continued on to 28 November if required.

In answer to questions, the following was clarified:

- Sensitive information from the cultural values report had been taken into consideration on the maps of the reserve.
- Development of work plans and budgets for the next Long-term Plan review would commence in the financial year 2026-27. This would be the next logical time to look at what infrastructure and investment was required at Motutere Recreation Reserve.

While there was a preference to indicate a date when camping on the lake foreshore would cease, members acknowledged that following the 25 July meeting there had been media coverage detailing the decisions made. If the committee changed its position, more media coverage could be expected and there was a risk that decision making was seen as unreliable and/or inconsistent. In order for the extra information received from hapū, Mr Tilton and the Department of Conservation following the 25 July meeting to not be perceived as unduly influencing the committee, it was agreed that these be included as submissions to the draft RMP.

Members also acknowledged the tensions of negotiating the campground lease while drafting the RMP and the risk that the lessee could decide to continue with status quo for the next 14 years (to the end of his current lease in 2038).

Members acknowledged that approving the draft Reserve Management Plan with no amendments still allowed changes to be made following the hearing and deliberation.

The Policy Advisor talked through the hearing and deliberation process. She explained that an entire day had been planned for hearings with approximately 5-6 people speaking to their submissions per hour. It was an opportunity for the committee members to receive information and ask questions of clarification, but not for members to express views. They needed to absorb without predetermining the outcome. Through the submission process, officers would have a better idea of how much time needed to be allocated for hearing and deliberation, and the committee would be updated. It was hoped that the hearings and deliberations could be wrapped up in two days but more time would be booked if it was required. Staff would provide a summary of the information received in the submissions and alternative options to consider, including timeframes, and costs and benefits associated with them. The time in between submissions closing and the hearings being held allowed staff to condense the information into key ideas, themes and issues for the committee to consider.

MRRMP202408/04 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Danny Loughlin
Seconded: Mayor David Trewavas

That the Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan Committee directs officers to make the draft management plan and the Motutere Context Summary available to the public and call for written objections or suggestions on the draft plan, in accordance with section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution MRRMP202408/04 above.

5.3 PUBLIC FORUM

Mr John Tilton addressed the Committee. The following points were noted:

- Mr Tilton understood that the committee was concerned that there was no finite finish date for camping on the lakefront. He proposed that a new lease be negotiated which would prohibit camping on the lakefront after 2038. He would remove the domes from the lake foreshore and give notice for permanent caravans to be removed in a maximum timeframe of 4 years.
- In order to do this, he required an expansion area for motorhomes and for the eastern end of the lakefront to operate as normal until Council had made a day use area. Following this, all camping on the lake foreshore could cease and these sites could be moved to the rear of the campground.
- Mr Tilton was concerned that a Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act request had been made to Council requesting information about him and his business. He did not want any commercially sensitive information released and wanted to be informed about how this would be managed. He believed someone was trying to discredit him.

Chair Cr Loughlin advised that anyone could make a request for information in New Zealand and reassured Mr Tilton that commercially sensitive information and personal private information could be redacted. It was not for Council to understand the reasons why information was requested, it was everyone's right to request information. This would be worked through by Council staff.

Ms Maia Wikaira addressed the Committee. The following points were noted:

- The hapū asked the committee to choose option 3 in the report, specifically that the draft plan be amended to give direction for no camping on the lakefront from 2038 and approve this in the draft Reserve Management Plan for consultation.
- Option 3 was not an outcome that exclusively benefited the hapū but would help restore public access for the whole community to the lakeshore area of the recreation reserve and only after the existing commercial lease came to an end.
- The campground owner could not use loss to business as a reason for restricting camping on the lakefront because that was based on a hypothetical and could be legally challenged. The compromise offered by the campground owner was on the basis of continuing a lease until 2057 which took away the use of the lakefront from the community and hapū. The longer term lease for camping was to enable the campground owner to sell the campground at a better price with the new negotiated lease. It was not in the committee's interest to put the campground owner's interests ahead of community and hapū.
- The preferred option for the hapū was to provide notice to campers with sub-leases and respect the campground owner's current lease entitlement. The current entitlement to camp on the lakefront was prohibiting people from using it, community and hapū, and also campground users. It had hindered Council's ability to provide for parking for the boat ramp users. Council was required by law to manage the reserve for public recreational purposes but the existing commercial lease had

privatised this public space, and benefited an individual's private commercial business and largely non-resident non ratepayer camping base. It had effectively excluded community access by people of this district - the residents and ratepayers including hapū members. Hapū was supportive of fair decisions that did not mislead the community with what could be a false promise if the existing lease was terminated and not re-negotiated.

MRRMP202408/05 RESOLUTION

Moved: Member Jade Wikaira

Seconded: Member Maru Maniapoto

That the Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan Committee receives comments from members of the public.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution MRRMP202408/05 above.

6 NGĀ KŌRERO TŪMATAITI | CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Nil

The meeting closed at 5.43pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan Committee Meeting held on 27 November 2024.

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CHAIRPERSON