

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, 25 JULY 2024 AT 3.30PM

PRESENT: Cr Danny Loughlin (in the Chair), Member Aroha French, Cr Sandra Greenslade, Member Maru Maniapoto (from 4.11pm), Cr Kevin Taylor, Member Jade Wikaira (via MS Teams)

IN ATTENDANCE: General Manager Strategy and Environment (W Zander), Policy Manager (N Carroll), Senior Policy Advisor (E O'Callaghan), Senior Policy Advisor (K Scott), Policy Advisor (H Wood), Corporate Solicitor (F Bramwell), Iwi Engagement Partner (T W Waaka), Landscape Architect (F Scott), Parks Advisor Planning and Operations (B Vi), Environmental Advisor (E Naylor), Southern Lake Taupō Engagement Partner (M Isherwood, via MS Teams), Communications Advisor (R Watts, via MS Teams), Digital Content Creator (C Hollinger), Governance Quality Manager (S James)

MEDIA AND PUBLIC: Mr John Tilton, Motutere Top 10 Holiday Park lessee (via MS Teams)
Mr Brett Giles, Motutere Top 10 Holiday Park camper representative

- Notes:
- (i) *Committee Chairperson, Cr Danny Loughlin recited the Taupō District Council opening karakia. He welcomed everyone to the meeting, including Committee member Ms Jade Wikaira and Mr John Tilton, who joined the meeting online via MS Teams.*
 - (ii) *Agenda item 5.1 (Public Forum) was adjourned at 3.47pm and reconvened at 3.56pm. Agenda items were therefore dealt with in the following order: 1, 2, 3, 4.1, part of 5.1, 5.2, the remainder of 5.1, 5.3, 5.4.*
 - (iii) *Committee member Mr Maru Maniapoto entered the meeting at 4.11pm. He was not present for resolutions MRRMP2024/01-04.*
 - (iv) *Cr Kevin Taylor left the meeting at 4.55pm. He was not present for resolution MRRMP202407/06.*

1 KARAKIA

Committee Chairperson Cr Danny Loughlin recited the Taupō District Council opening karakia.

2 WHAKAPĀHA | APOLOGIES

MRRMP202407/01 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Danny Loughlin

Seconded: Cr Kevin Taylor

That the apologies received from Member Maru Maniapoto (for lateness) and His Worship the Mayor, David Trewavas (for absence) be accepted.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution MRRMP202407/01 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 - 30 NOVEMBER 2023

MRRMP202407/02 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Sandra Greenslade

Seconded: Member Aroha French

That the minutes of the Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan Committee meeting held on Thursday 30 November 2023 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 MRRMP202407/02 above.

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

5.1 PUBLIC FORUM

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

- Mr Tilton thanked Council staff and elected members for their support of a new 33 year lease and inclusion of expansion areas. This was still to be decided by full Council. It represented a huge step to provide replacement sites for motorhomes.
- He had tried to find a 'middle ground' in relation to the waterfront, however had been unsuccessful to date. He had not met with iwi representatives to discuss this matter, which was disappointing, because he wanted to understand the issues more clearly. He had tried to compromise by volunteering to remove motorhomes from the water front over time, relocate the domes and find more acceptable colours.
- He did not agree with Council officers' statements on page 47 of the agenda that it had become evident that the current campground lease arrangement on the lakeshore conflicts with the core objectives of a recreation reserve and that the exclusivity of the campground operation significantly limits public access to Motutere Bay. The area was not a regular recreation reserve. It was a legally gazetted campground. How can a designated campground be restricting public access to the area?
- The lessee was paying commercial rent to maintain the campground land and provide assets.
- The officers' report should be neutral, rather than biased against the campground remaining.
- Why were Halletts Bay and Ōtaiātoa Bay not considered for public recreation areas?
- Mr Tilton was raising these questions and issues on behalf of people who have enjoyed spending time in the area and who are upset. He shared his own personal memories of backpacking in New Zealand many years ago, including time spent at Motutere, boating, fishing and sleeping in a small tent on the waterfront. He then read out a number of recent positive online reviews from people who had camped and spent time at Motutere.
- Mr Tilton explained the importance of drawing up a new holiday park lease now, not in 14 years' time. Otherwise, the Reserve Management Plan actions would not be implemented and issues addressed now. One serious issue was vehicle access to the boat ramp. The lease was silent on this and did not show any public road. If the lease was sold, a future lessee may not maintain the road as the current lessee did. A new lease would provide certainty of tenure and an updated valuation for the lease fee.
- Closing the waterfront would go against 90% of people who have said leave it as it is. Closing it would be detrimental to tourism. Why did Council bother asking for views if it was going to ignore them?
- In conclusion, Mr Tilton was pleased to have been able to develop the campground in this iconic location,

bringing people to the country. He hoped the waterfront could continue to be shared by day visitors and campers.

The public forum item was adjourned at this point (3.47pm) and reconvened at 3.56pm.

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

- Hapū discussions about the nature and extent of the different campground areas were ongoing. The ecological report would help hapū in its consideration of issues and additional matters including any possible campground extension. There were potential effects to be considered in relation to proposed extension area 1, and proposed extension area 2 required a Hazardous Activities and Industries List (HAIL) assessment. Hapū would be discussing these matters in the context of consultation on the draft Reserve Management Plan.
- In relation to the Motutere Bay lakeshore area, the hapū's position was that the recreation reserve was an area to provide access to recreation opportunities for the public. This was an area of cultural significance. Campground activities on the lakeshore had created a perception that the area was a private space and this had caused issues.
- Hapū's preference was for there to be no campground activities on the lakeshore, so that hapū would have the ability to use the space to properly engage with the wai and the area. Without going out in the draft Reserve Management Plan to indicate a proposed change to no camping, the Committee would be reliant on submitters raising it.

The public forum item finished at 4.02pm.

MRRMP202407/03 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Danny Loughlin

Seconded: Member Aroha French

That the Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan Committee receives comments from Mr John Tilton and Ms Maia Wikaira.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution MRRMP202407/03 above.

5.2 DIRECTION ON RESTRICTION OF VEHICLE ACCESS TO ŌTAIĀTOA BAY IN DRAFT MOTUTERE RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Policy Advisor summarised the report, explaining that there were several issues with Ōtaiātoa Bay access which had resulted in the officers' recommendation to restrict vehicle access to the Bay via the draft Reserve Management Plan. These issues included:

- Proximity to State Highway 1.
- Unsafe turning areas.
- Undesirable swimming areas.
- The internal access road was in poor condition, so vehicles used the grassed areas which resulted in environmental degradation.
- There were no water or wastewater services to enable public toilet facilities.
- Antisocial behaviour was an issue in the area.

Members discussed the proposal and the following points were noted:

- Restricting vehicle access to Ōtaiātoa Bay would likely not prevent antisocial behaviour or illegal camping.
- Blocking all vehicle access would increase risk, as people would park next to the state highway instead.
- Clear signage would make the area safer.
- The area was a cemetery years ago, so it was hoped that signage recognising that could be installed too.

It was agreed that the proposal to restrict vehicle access to Ōtaiātoa Bay should be included in the draft Reserve Management Plan for consultation.

MRRMP202407/04 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Sandra Greenslade
Seconded: Member Aroha French

That the Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan Committee directs officers to restrict vehicle access to Ōtaiātoa Bay within the draft Reserve Management Plan, noting that final decision making on the preferred option will be made following the community consultation period.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution MRRMP202407/04 above.

5.3 DIRECTION ON PROPOSED CAMPING EXPANSION AREAS IN DRAFT MOTUTERE RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Senior Policy Advisor summarised the report. Expansion area 1 contained significant indigenous vegetation. Expansion area 2 contained a potential hazardous site. There were sites of cultural significance near both proposed extension areas. The Senior Policy Advisor explained that new information had come to light since the current Reserve Management Plan was drafted. These considerations were included in the report.

In answer to a question, the Senior Policy Advisor advised that Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) would continue to exist after current central government proposed changes were made.

Member Mr Maru Maniapoto entered the meeting at this point (4.11pm).

Committee Chairperson Cr Danny Loughlin made the point that SNAs affected both Māori and non-Māori land, but he was comfortable that some wonderful native planting could be done on the Motutere reserve land, meeting National Policy Statement (NPS) requirements without causing any major issues.

In answer to another question, the Senior Policy Advisor explained that new planting could go in the 'draft SNA area' marked in blue on Figure 2 (page 20 of the agenda). She added that wilding pines could be removed and off-set by planting elsewhere, or perhaps thinned to remove only the larger wilding pines and enable nestled camping amongst the remaining trees.

Cr Loughlin noted the recommendation from the Cultural Values Report referenced at the bottom of page 22 of the agenda, that development (including new planting) would need to be done closely with mana whenua.

The Senior Policy Advisor noted the potential need for more services in future, in particular drinking water infrastructure.

In relation to the Hazardous Activities and Industries List (HAIL) site, tests would need to be conducted before possible uses for the site could be considered.

Members decided to instruct officers to continue drafting the Reserve Management Plan including the two proposed expansion areas, subject to controls on vegetation clearance and off-set conditions in relation to area 1; and subject to HAIL assessment in relation to area 2.

The meeting adjourned at this point (4.28pm) and reconvened at 4.31pm.

MRRMP202407/05 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Kevin Taylor

Seconded: Member Maru Maniapoto

That the Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan Committee directs officers to continue drafting the RMP based on:

- Approve Camp Expansion Area 1 – include Option 2 – Tourist Accommodation, with controls on vegetation clearance and off-set conditions, and
- Approve Camp Expansion Area 2 – include Option 2 – Active Recreation, to that area shown in Map 2. Use of this area and further expansion subject to HAIL assessment,

noting that final decision making on the preferred options will be made following the community consultation period.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution MRRMP202407/05 above.

5.4 DIRECTION ON THE CONFIGURATION OF THE MOTUTERE BAY LAKESHORE LEASE AREA IN DRAFT MOTUTERE RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Senior Policy Advisor summarised the three options for the configuration of the Motutere Bay lakeshore area, being *status quo*; reconfigure the lakeshore camping lease area to a public day-use reserve with no camping; or reconfigure the lakeshore camping lease area to enable separate day-use and camping zones.

The following points were noted during questions, answers and related discussion:

- The 20-metre access right-of-way was measured from the Taupō-Nui-a-Tia boundary at Moturiki datum point 357.015. Because it is based on a contour line it gradually moves as a result of erosion and accretion of the foreshore.
- Under the Reserves Act 1977, the purpose of recreation reserves was for enjoyment of the public. Under the Act, leases give effect to that purpose. Camping at Motutere Bay has caused an exclusive area to develop and public access has been restricted.
- Pedestrian access to the reserve was at a narrow 'pinch point' and erosion was happening there.
- The natural character of the area was being compromised by camp infrastructure.
- Mr Tilton's proposals to remove structures from the foreshore protection area were acknowledged as a positive outcome.
- All three options would require improved access across the State Highway. Advocacy to the New Zealand Transport Agency / Waka Kotahi would be ongoing in this regard.
- Toilet facilities would still be required for Option 3 (separate day-use and camping zones), preferably out of the foreshore protection area but within the reticulated area.
- The cultural report had pinpointed sites of cultural significance on the wider lakefront but not on the Motutere lakeshore part of the reserve. However, hapū may wish to investigate this further.
- Unlike the Motutere Bay foreshore, the foreshore reserves at Ōtaiātoa Bay and Halletts Bay did not have reticulation.
- Hapū's preference was Option 2, no camping.
- Option 3 represented a pragmatic approach, with tents having less impact than *status quo*.
- Stories of significance to hapū would be shared via the Reserve Management Plan.

Cr Kevin Taylor left the meeting at this point (4.55pm).

In answer to a question, the Policy Manager advised that when consulting, it was preferable to have a preferred option. A preferred option provided a clear direction, whereas multiple options could be confusing for the community. However, there was nothing in the Reserves Act 1977 which would prevent the Committee from consulting on multiple options. He added that the Committee would consider and approve

the draft Reserve Management Plan before it went out for consultation.

Members decided to instruct officers to include Option 3 (reconfigure the Motutere Bay lakeshore camping lease area to enable separate day-use and camping zones) in the draft Reserve Management Plan for consultation. They recognised that there were competing values, and they wanted the best possible outcome for everyone. It was however noted that hapū's long-term goal was to have managed retreat and ultimately a foreshore with nothing on it.

In answer to a question, the General Manager Strategy and Environment advised that there were still several steps in the process to come, including the Committee's approval of a draft Reserve Management Plan; consultation; and recommendation of the final Reserve Management Plan to full Council for adoption.

Committee Chairperson Cr Danny Loughlin thanked Mr Tilton and Ms Wikaira for their attendance online.

MRRMP202407/06 RESOLUTION

Moved: Member Jade Wikaira
Seconded: Cr Sandra Greenslade

That the Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan Committee directs officers to include the following in the draft Reserve Management Plan:

Option 3: Reconfigure the Motutere Bay lakeshore camping lease area to enable separate day-use & camping zones,

noting that final decision making on the preferred option will be made following community consultation.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution MRRMP202407/06 above.

6 NGĀ KŌRERO TŪMATAITI | CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Nil

The meeting closed at 5.12pm with a karakia recited by Member Maru Maniapoto.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan Committee Meeting held on 29 August 2024.

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CHAIRPERSON