

Taupō District Council

Notes of Motutere Reserve Management Plan Committee Workshop

Group	Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan Committee
Date	Thursday 30 May 2024, 3.30pm – 5.30pm
Venue	Tūrangi Customer and Visitor Information Centre, 1 Ngawaka Place, Tūrangi
Topic	Vision, Reserve Management Values, Motutere Foreshore Management
Facilitated by	Senior Policy Advisor (K Scott)
Committee Members present	Cr Danny Loughlin (in the Chair, via MS Teams), Aroha French (via MS Teams), Cr Sandra Greenslade, Cr Kevin Taylor (via MS Teams), Jade Wikaira (via MS Teams until 4.58pm)
Officers present	General Manager Strategy and Environment (W Zander), Team Leader Resource Management (E O'Callaghan), Senior Community Engagement Advisor (G Smith, via MS Teams), Iwi Engagement Partner (T Walker), Policy Advisor (H Wood, via MS Teams), Landscape Architect (F Scott, via MS Teams), Senior Committee Advisor (K Watts)
Public / media present	3 members of the public plus Mr John Tilton (Motutere Holiday Park) Maia Wikaira (Ngāti Te Rangīita, via MS Teams)
Documents either pre-circulated or tabled	Email sent on 23 May 2024 by Policy Advisor (H Wood) to Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan Committee attaching: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extended Hapū Expectations and Feedback (A3557196)• Agenda (A3557193) PowerPoint presentation at the meeting (A3568938)
Public or closed¹	Public

Notes²

Introduction and Recap of Previous Workshop

The Senior Policy Advisor Kara Scott introduced herself and her role and apologised on behalf of the Policy Advisor Haydee Wood who was away sick and unable to attend in person. She also introduced Iwi Engagement Partner Te Wharau Waaka and Policy Team Leader Erin O'Callaghan.

¹ Workshops are public (and are always advertised whether public or closed), unless there is a good reason(s) for information to be withheld and there is no overriding public interest in holding the workshop in public. Withholding grounds set out in the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) are a guide. If closed, cite relevant LGOIMA section.

² Workshops are not decision-making forums, therefore this document contains notes of key points discussed only, not decisions.

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Ngāti Te Rangīita

Ms Maia Wikaira from Ngāti Te Rangīita joined the workshop via MS Teams. She acknowledged the committee members, introduced herself, and explained that she was participating in the process and working together with Council officers to draft the Reserve Management Plan (RMP).

She referred to the hapū expectations and feedback document that had been circulated and highlighted that hapū preferred for the RMP to reflect the need for public safety, particularly in relation to State Highway One. Hapū also wanted the opportunity for the RMP to reflect the natural history and culture of the reserve and were excited about this.

Ms Wikaira confirmed that Cultural Advisor Herea Winitana was also committed and would work closely with hapū and council officers to acknowledge the cultural sites.

She acknowledged Mr Tilton and confirmed that hapū would work closely with him for the opportunities to reflect the campground in the RMP. Hapū were interested in the broader strategic direction and keen to be involved in the future.

She reaffirmed the commitment to partnership and thanked the committee for the opportunity to bring the RMP more in line with modern practices.

Confirm Refined Vision Statement

The Senior Policy Advisor shared the updated vision statement via a PPT presentation (A3568938) showing suggestions and asked for the committee to give feedback.

Members asked for the vision statement to be made more succinct and refined it further by changing reference from “Ngāti Te Rangīita” to “mana whenua”, recognising that there were different Ngāti Te Rangīita hapū in the Taupō district, and that Ngāti Te Rangīita ki Waitetoko were mana whenua of Motutere. Following discussion, members agreed with the following vision statement:

The mauri of Motutere is protected and restored, the rights of mana whenua are recognised and provided for, and play, active recreation and wellbeing are provided for locals and the wider community.

The Senior Policy Advisor noted that any further refinement of the statement would be recirculated to the committee to gain any further feedback.

Confirm Reserve Management Values – Sustainable Management, Natural Areas, Foreshore

Hapū and Council officers were working on the cultural and historical values with the cultural advisor and would report back at the next workshop with the statement of cultural advice.

Members were supportive of the suggested values (Slide 7 from the PPT).

Motutere Foreshore Management Approaches

Three options were provided for members to consider:

1. Status Quo
2. Day use only on foreshore
3. Combination of camping and day use

The Department of Internal Affairs Harbourmaster had advised Council officers that swimmers used the jetty at Motutere Bay and that they could assist in applying for a swim only zone if that was of interest to the committee. That would mean that boats would not enter the swim only zone and a swim platform and other play equipment could be added. The potential swim only zones would need to be 50 metres from the boat ramp and jetty and could be one or both sides of it. It was

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acknowledged that Motutere Holiday Park owner Mr Tilton had been working through staged removal of permanent camp sites from the foreshore.

Looking at this with the new vision in mind, members were asked to consider if the foreshore was meeting the vision and providing a broader range for public and the community to enjoy the foreshore for each of the proposed options. This was a sheltered bay along the coastline which met the needs of the community to enjoy the space (including campers). It was suggested that another option could be a staged approach allowing for camping during busy times.

The following comments were noted by members:

- The existing RMP referred to a campground lease. The current Motutere Holiday Park lessee Mr Tilton had removed caravans and campervans from the foreshore over time. The new RMP should strike a balance in the recreation values around boat use, safety issues and a desire for less intensity on the foreshore.
- Removing buildings and permanent sites from the foreshore was preferred, this could be a phased approach.
- Foreshore camping should be clearly defined in the new RMP.
- The existing toilet facilities on the foreshore were reticulated. A new facility within the foreshore protection area (20m from the lake bed) would require consent and would not likely be provided given the vicinity to the lake. Toilets would still be required for day use or camping on the foreshore, so long as they were located outside of the foreshore protection area.

The Senior Policy Advisor would present refined options at the next workshop showing what managed retreat would look like, as well as a mixture of day use and camping on the foreshore.

Members discussed the land behind the existing campground near the water tanks as an option of being exchanged should the camping on the foreshore be reduced. An environment report of this area of land would come at a high cost and was not currently budgeted for. The Senior Policy Advisor added that if the specific area of land could be identified for a targeted assessment, this would reduce the cost of a ground assessment undertaken by an ecologist. There may also be a possibility that council's new environmental advisor from the Council's Parks and Reserves team could undertake an assessment.

It was noted that if the land was exchanged, Motutere Holiday Park lessee Mr Tilton would still require a discretionary resource consent.

The Senior Policy Advisor would provide options analysis at the next workshop including an exchange option for the land at the back of the campground.

Campground lessee request to present plan

Mr Tilton shared the proposed development plan and maps that had been circulated to committee members on 22 May 2024 (A3569751). He had considered the submissions from the first round of consultation in December 2023 and January 2024, and the views of campers, Council staff and the committee while preparing the master plan. He wanted to move motor homes from the foreshore to the back of the campground and had begun this by not allowing permanent campground licensees to sell their permanent licences. Once expired, they were required to remove their vans and the structures. He proposed for the only camping on the foreshore to be for tents and camping trailers, no caravans or motor homes.

He wanted to build a kid's playground in the area identified for expansion in the plans. Car and boat trailer parking on the foreshore side of the road of State Highway One needed to be addressed. If the boat ramp remained public, he recommended that parking be moved to near the shop (on the southern side).

He asked members that if part of the foreshore was designated for public day visitation, could it be a consideration that during the peak summer period, overflow camping be allowed there given that there was a camp kitchen and ablution block there. If the ablution block was used by the public this

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posed a problem because there were both showers and toilets there. The camp would be responsible for keeping them clean so they would use a pinpad entry to allow only campers to use them. All of the buildings on the foreshore had been built in a manner which enabled them to be relocated except for the camp kitchen.

Mr Tilton was receptive to the idea of camping on the foreshore to be on one side of the boat ramp and jetty but asked that for the 20-30 days of the peak summer period, camping be allowed on both sides and specified in the RMP. He intended for only tents to camp on the foreshore and would continue to phase out caravans and motorhomes.

A public walkway and public access to the lake could be managed with paths and designated areas to prevent erosion on the banks.

Committee member Ms Jade Wikaira left the workshop at this point (4.58pm).

Mr Tilton advised members that transient visitors preferred to camp at the foreshore because it was a unique experience.

He was keen for a pedestrian refuge island to assist with safety while crossing State Highway One and for planting to create barriers between the foreshore and the busy road.

Members noted the key concerns that they wished to be addressed:

- The boat ramp and jetty should be made safe for boat operators and swimmers by enforcing the swim only zone and potentially adding a swim platform/pontoon. It was noted that permission should be sought from Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board for adding a pontoon.
- Education should be provided to campers and overseas visitors to ensure that they did not trespass through backyards of private properties near the reserve.

A member brought to the attention of the Council officers that people were illegally camping further along the reserve to the south – Ōtaiātoa Bay, and had lit fires and left rubbish. Members were encouraged to contact Fire and Emergency New Zealand in the first instance if there was a risk to public safety. To report the misuse of the reserve, members were encouraged to take photos and provide information for a service request to be raised with the Council compliance officers.

Next Steps

It was intended that the vision and values be solidified by the next workshop and that draft objectives, policies and design approaches would be presented. The draft RMP would be presented to the committee around one week prior to the workshop to allow time for them to review it before it was discussed.

The workshop closed at 5.26pm.