

# Taupō District Council

## Notes of Committee Workshop

<b>Group</b>	Motutere Reserve Management Plan Committee
<b>Date</b>	Thursday 21 March 2024, 3pm-4.30pm
<b>Venue</b>	Council Chamber
<b>Topic</b>	Motutere Issues and Opportunities
<b>Facilitated by</b>	Senior Policy Advisor (E O'Callaghan), Policy Advisors (H Wood and K Scott)
<b>Committee members present</b>	Ms Jade Wikaira (in the Chair), Ms Aroha French, Cr Sandra Greenslade, Cr Kevin Taylor
<b>Other elected members present</b>	Cr Duncan Campbell (until 3.42pm), Karam Fletcher (via MS Teams), Yvonne Westerman (until 4.14pm)
<b>Officers present</b>	Chief Executive (J Gardyne), General Manager People and Community Partnerships (L O'Brien), General Manager Strategy and Environment (W Zander), Acting General Manager Operations and Delivery (T Hale), Policy Manager (N Carroll), Iwi and Co-Governance Manager (D Rameka), Executive Manager to the Mayor (J Later), Senior Policy Advisor (F Bramwell) Communications Team Leader (D Beck), Governance Quality Manager (S James), Committee Advisor (N Turnbull)
<b>Public / media present</b>	Mr John Tilton (Motutere Holiday Park)
<b>Documents either pre-circulated or tabled</b>	Email sent on 18 March 2024 by Policy Advisor (H Wood) to Motutere Reserve Management Plan Committee attaching a document entitled "Motutere Issues and Opportunities" (A3517283)  PowerPoint presentation (A3522947)
<b>Public or closed<sup>1</sup></b>	Public

### Notes<sup>2</sup>

Policy Advisor (H Wood) opened the workshop with a karakia.

The key focus of the workshop was for the policy team to provide an update on the issues and opportunities identified through the review of the Reserve Management Plan to date and for the Motutere Reserve Management Plan Committee members to discuss potential resolutions through different objectives, policies and methods.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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

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Chair Ms Wikaira advised that the review of the Motutere Reserve Management Plan had been discussed at a recent Ngāti Te Rangiita Hui-ā-Hapū. The hapū would provide a formal update to the Committee in due course, and was looking forward to working with Council in the spirit of partnership and co-governance, to address past mamae (hurt, pain) and also current concerns like the location of camping on the lakefront and a raft of safety concerns. It would also be necessary to conduct a cultural heritage assessment in order to move forward.

In addition to the pre-circulated document, the policy team members made a PowerPoint presentation (A3522947) and discussed identified issues and opportunities with the Committee. Mr John Tilton from the Motutere Holiday Park was present and, with the leave of the Chair, responded to questions during the workshop.

## Boat Ramp and Parking

- Safety issues concerned both campers and members of the public.
- Additional parking options needed to be considered. One option could be additional parking in the existing space for trailers and extending the area adjacent to the highway. The team would also need to engage with Waka Kotahi/New Zealand Transport Agency.
- There was a need and an educational opportunity to have more visible signage on the boat ramps to educate users of boats and jet skis to be aware of swimmers.
- Members discussed the overcrowding issue near the boat ramp which caused safety issues with children swimming and jumping off the jetty with boats around and some not adhering to the speed limits.
- There needed to be a solution to be able to facilitate both swimmers and boats in the areas around the boat ramp and jetty. One option would be to close the boat ramp, but other options needed to be explored, such as a pontoon for kids to use for jumping which could provide a safer area to swim that isn't close to boats.
- Council could facilitate discussions between Ngāti Te Rangiita, the Harbourmaster (Department of Internal Affairs) and the holiday park lessee, to address safety concerns.

## Reserve User Safety

- Opportunities to improve reserve user safety included education about hazards, along with signage/brochures/information on the holiday park website.
- It was important to educate reserve users about the reserve boundaries.
- It was also important to have signage discouraging reserve users from going onto private property.
- There was an opportunity to look at why there was no fire break between the campground and forestry area.
- There was an issue with jet skis and boats coming up to the foreshore, amongst picnickers and swimmers. The risks needed to be examined, and signage installed stating boats cannot come up to the foreshore area.
- Buses were stopping along the highway to do driver swaps, and people were getting out to swim, this was a significant issue with no appropriate parking and overcrowding.
- Large trucks were also causing issues, some trucks had even blocked access to the holiday park. It was suggested that the managers at the holiday park could alert Council when trucks and buses parked on the side of the highway and blocked access, and Council could send a letter notifying the truck drivers and bus companies that they are not permitted to stop there as it was a safety issue.
- Waka Kotahi/New Zealand Transport Agency needed to provide additional support with signage near the highway about where trucks and buses could park. Waka Kotahi was only able to make changes based on data, so the best approach was to report issues, for example near misses, to Waka Kotahi.
- Mr Tilton advised that the trailer parks were not being overcrowded with the campground residents as they all take their trailers back to their personal camp sites, it was other members of the public causing parking problems.
- Bulli Point was one of the high-risk locations identified by the Waikato Regional Transport Committee as part of current consultation on the Waikato Regional Land Transport Plan.

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## Reserve Access

- There was public uncertainty about various access points to the reserve. Signage was required.
- It would be helpful to research whether there are any other campgrounds in New Zealand with a highway through the middle of camping areas. There may be models in place which could assist the work of the Committee, to avoid recreating the wheel.
- The status of the land around Motutere Point between the Waitapu Road properties and Lake Taupō (Parcel 4263881) was in the process of being clarified.
- Planting and roped accessways could mitigate foreshore erosion in the future.
- The issue of lake level in front of some properties where there is no beach was of concern to some although this is not a matter for the reserve management plan to address.

## Campground

- The Reserve Management Plan review was an opportunity to clarify activity on the lakeshore side of the reserve, including permitted structures, planting, fencing, defining different activity areas etc.
- Council parks and reserves team advice was that signage for public to take rubbish away was preferable to installing rubbish bins.
- Mr Tilton confirmed his intention to move motor homes off the lakefront, perhaps to an area at the back of the campground. Boom gates could be installed to stop illegal camping. There could be a defined parking area where cars could park and people walk from their cars with tents down to the lakefront. This would help address issues with safety, erosion and views.
- Mr Tilton also confirmed that 12-14 annual permanent caravan sites had been removed from the lakefront area over the last seven years, as part of a planned approach to shifting caravans away from the lakefront.
- Another Committee site visit would be beneficial, so members could consider the whenua (land) at the back of the current campground lease site.

## Environment

- Members discussed the various environment enhancement opportunities within the area including landscaping, revegetation, and erosion control.
- There were opportunities to partner with the holiday park and local community including schools or volunteer groups, on planting and other projects on the reserve.

Members noted that a lot of the plans set out in the 2004 Motutere Reserve Management Plan had not been actioned. They were looking forward to progressing a new Reserve Management Plan to enable progress to be made on the ground.

Chair Ms Wikaira thanked all participants before the Policy Advisor (H Wood) recited a closing karakia.