

Developing a management plan for the Waikawa Bay Foreshore Reserve



Summary of feedback and suggestions received

Thank you to all of those who provided suggestions and feedback on the development of a reserve management plan for the Waikawa Bay Foreshore Reserve. The feedback period ran from 30 April to 12 June 2020 with 54 responses received. A summary of the feedback and suggestions has been prepared and a copy of all feedback received is available on the Council's website at <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/recreation/parks-and-open-spaces/parks-and-open-spaces-plans-and-reports/waikawa-bay-foreshore-reserve-management-plan>.

With one exception no comment has been provided by staff in the following summary on any of the suggestions received through feedback. The suggestions will be the subject of consideration by staff going forward as the reserve management plan is developed through its various stages. The exception is in relation to feedback on a land swap proposal concerning the Arapawa Māori Rowing Club building. Clarification of the process around the proposal can be found towards the end of this document.

Frequency of use of the reserve

The responses to this question ranged from daily year round to weekly and monthly. A number commented that frequency of use increased during summer months. Feedback also highlighted how many families who had enjoyed use of the reserve over the years were now enjoying it with their grandchildren.

Activities and use of the reserve

Swimming, picnicking and launching boats, kayaks, waka and paddle boards were amongst the most common activities occurring at the reserve. Use of the jetty to provide access to boats, for fishing, watching stingrays and for diving from were also popular water-related pursuits.

Relaxing, resting and meeting friends were frequently mentioned while some commented on their use of facilities such as the car park, bbqs, playground and public toilets.

Several respondents described their use of the Arapawa Māori Rowing Club building over many years for family events, for marae purposes, for hui and tangi, as a base for rowing and other sports and for storage of boating equipment. Sharing history and reminiscing with whanau about the area and the rowing club were also noted.

Things most enjoyed about the reserve

Common themes amongst aspects most enjoyed about the reserve include:

- personal, whanau and cultural importance and connections
- use of the boatshed for communal and customary occasions
- reserve not currently overcrowded or too developed or commercialised
- facilities well maintained
- great to see the diversity of people using the area and to see and hear family use of the reserve
- ease of access to the boat ramp and facilities
- sharing historical connections with stories told to tamariki and mokopuna

Other responses highlighted the importance of connections with the marine environment, peacefulness, dogs able to be off leash on the beach, sand on the shoreline and the relative open space nature of the reserve.



Significant concerns about how the reserve is currently looked after

Quite a few of the responses did not highlight any major areas of concern with the reserve and how it has been maintained. However, a number of comments highlighted issues with parking and use of the boat ramp. These concerns included:

- launching boats and parking are becoming more important than family and children's enjoyment
- it would be a poor use of resources to increase parking just to improve boat ramp access
- turning an area of carpark into grass made the parking situation worse
- vehicle parking on streets near the reserve sometimes blocks access for residents
- vehicles are parked for weeks at a time over Christmas restricting day use
- vehicles park for days at a time up to the doors of the Rowing Club building restricting access
- access to dinghies is sometimes restricted by vehicles parking close to them
- workers are parking vehicles all day in the carpark reducing the ability for day users to park
- there should be no further boat and vehicle related development on the reserve.



Management responsibilities for the reserve were also a concern. Some considered the Council should consult with locals and the Waikawa Ratepayers and Residents Association on any modifications to the reserve. Further that the reserve management plan should include an acknowledgement of the Association's right to take part in management of the area. Another view expressed was that Te Ātiawa is the Treaty partner alongside the Crown and that the iwi has greater rights in terms of management than the ratepayers group. Others said management of the reserve should be an inclusive process where no single entity has undue influence.



A few maintenance issues were highlighted including in the area at the southern end of the reserve and around the rowing club building. Other matters of concern noted by respondents included:

- bbqs potentially attracting large noisy crowds
- there should be no commercial buildings/operations off or on the reserve

- lack of storage space for dinghies and other small craft
- lack of enforcement of dogs, parking and freedom camping.

Importance of green space



The importance of retaining green space and increasing this where practical was highlighted by several. It was noted the reserve is a small space and there aren't many areas of this type nearby. This means even a small loss of land or green space would have a disproportionate effect on community enjoyment.

A goal was proposed for the reserve to make as much green space available as possible, which could be achieved by removing long term parking, parking overnight and returning the lower car park to a park and beach area.

New buildings were said to result in a need for more parking and it was proposed that any new buildings should have a small footprint. Commercial activity was opposed by some although others thought a coffee cart or food trucks would be appropriate and in keeping with activity on the reserve.

Arapawa Māori Rowing Club building

Suggestions regarding the future of the building included those who wished to see it redeveloped or reinstated on the same site (with the assistance of the Council) while others wanted it shifted to another site. One such site mentioned was reserve land at Waikawa Marina. Removing the building from its current site was suggested as offering the opportunity to open up the beach area between the main part of the reserve and the area south of the building.

There was support for the building to remain as a community facility but not for commercial activity.

Launching ramp



A suggestion was made to shift the launching ramp to where the Waikawa Marina extension is underway. Reasons for this included that marina facilities were purpose built and included provision for car parking. If the launching ramp was moved parking issues on the reserve and surrounding streets would be alleviated. Improving safety, particularly for children playing on the playground adjacent to the launching ramp, was also said to be a benefit from moving the launching ramp. There would also be more area available for swimming, small water craft and waka ama.

Linking Waikawa Bay foreshore reserve with Waikawa Marina and other reserves



Including land beyond the rowing club building to the corner of Waikawa Road within the reserve management plan was proposed. Others took this further suggesting establishment of a cycleway/walkway around the foreshore between the reserve and Waikawa Marina. An extension of this was to

include an existing piece of reserve land just to the north of the Waikawa Marina apartments.

Another area suggested for a walkway from the reserve, was from behind the boatsheds at the northern end of the reserve around the foreshore to Karaka Point. This would enable people to enjoy those areas of Waikawa that are currently inaccessible to most.

Feedback also identified that an existing reserve in Amelia Crescent could be managed as an adjunct to the Waikawa Bay foreshore reserve. It was identified that people currently walk up Amelia Crescent for the view and that the reserve could be more actively managed with the foreshore reserve. Another reserve in Arthur Crescent was suggested as a possible location for more off road parking.

Provision for small craft and improving access

Several comments were made on a need to provide for launching of small craft such as dinghies, small yachts, kayaks etc. Currently launching of these craft takes place over the vertical seawall and this is seen as difficult. What was proposed was the installation of a wooden ramp to assist in launching small craft. A suggestion was also made about providing for better storage options for dinghies or other small craft.

Improving access from the grassed area to the beach was proposed as were improvements to accessibility generally within the reserve.

Other suggestions made

A range of other suggestions made concerning both the use of the reserve and improvements to the reserve were as follows:

- bringing the history of the Arapawa Māori Rowing Club back to life
- updating the children's playground to include shade, a fence to stop children running near the launching ramp and carpark, accessible playground equipment and reconsidering use of the soft fall matting as this gets very hot

- encouraging boats to tie up to one side of the jetty to enable use of the other side for children to jump off
- banning dogs
- more rubbish bins and a doggy doo bag dispenser
- planting to screen the reserve from the car park and planting of citrus trees for foraging
- sealing the lower car park along with marked parking
- bussing salmon workers to the reserve rather than allowing them to park there for days
- introducing restrictions on parking for short term recreational use
- lowering height of picnic tables and providing more tables including on the breakwater.



Te Ātiawa land swap proposal

To clarify the process around a proposed land swap on the Waikawa Bay Foreshore Reserve, the Council and the Department of Conservation were approached by Te Ātiawa to consider a swap of land on which the Arapawa Māori Rowing Club building sits, for reserve land immediately alongside the building. The land on which the Rowing Club building sits was vested in named Trustees for Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui Trust by Section 110 of the *Ngāti Kōata, Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Tama ki Te Tau Ihu, and Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui Claims Settlement Act 2014*. The land was vested in the Trustees as a recreation reserve subject to Section 17 of the Reserves Act 1977 and named the Te Ātiawa Arapaoa Waka Recreation Reserve.

The process for a land swap of reserve land is guided by Section 15 of the Reserves Act. Under this section, the proposal for Waikawa Bay firstly saw the Department of Conservation approving the land swap in principle. Then the Council initially considered the proposal in April 2020. The Council made a decision to review the matter sometime in the future when the reserve management plan process was completed.

The feedback on the proposal received through the reserve management process can help inform the process. However, if the land swap proposal moves to the next step this has to be the subject of a separate notification, objection and hearing process under Section 15 of the Reserves Act.

Where to from here

Staff will soon start to prepare a draft plan. There will be opportunities for consultation throughout the drafting process. There are also two other reserve management plans currently being drafted by staff so it is unlikely that the Waikawa Bay Foreshore Reserve Management Plan will be publically notified for submission until next year.

If you would like to talk with someone about this process please contact Linda Craighead or Grahame Smail at the Council on 03 520 7400.

Process for plan development

Phase	Approximate Timeframe
Request for feedback/suggestions	30 April 2020 to 12 June COMPLETED
Develop draft plan and Council process	August – November 2020
Draft plan released to public for submissions	January - February 2021
Submissions close	Early March 2021
Hear submissions	April 2021
Develop final plan	Mid 2021



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