

Developing a management plan for the Waikawa Bay Foreshore Reserve



Waikawa Bay Foreshore Reserve, located on the eastern side of Waikawa Bay, is a popular place for picnicking, swimming and launching boats for both locals and visitors and is of great significance for Te Ātiawa Ki Te Tau Ihu.

This small coastal reserve is a mix of recreation reserve and road reserve. The land has been transformed over time from an informal beach area where historically road spoil from the Port Underwood Road was deposited, to the more formalised reserve we have today. Grassed areas, picnic tables, a children's play area, barbecues, vehicle parking, boat launching and toilet facilities, the Arapawa Māori Rowing Club building and a public jetty all fit onto this small area of land.

The Council intends to develop a management plan for the reserve that will help enable a mix of uses and values to be supported as well as putting in place policy to guide day-to-day management. The plan will provide the Council and the community with certainty about how this small coastal reserve will be managed over the next 10 years or so.

Why do we need a reserve management plan?

The Reserves Act 1977 requires reserve management plans to be prepared for reserves under the control of the Council. While parts of the Waikawa Foreshore were first gazetted back in the late 1970s, no reserve management plan was prepared at the time. The development of this plan (under the Reserves Act) is therefore the first one for this popular coastal reserve.



Waikawa Foreshore circa 1967

The Reserves Act sets out the purpose of recreation reserves as being “... areas for the recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreational activities, including recreational tracks in the countryside”.

Importantly the Act also allows other values associated with a reserve to be managed and protected where these values are compatible with the main purpose of the reserve, in this case recreation.



Te Ātiawa Ki Te Tau Ihu



Over the years the Waikawa Bay foreshore area has, and continues to be, a very special place for Te Ātiawa. The iwi have been in residence in Waikawa since the late 1820s having moved from Waitohi Pā (Picton).

For generations, the foreshore area has provided the base for many fishing and kaimoana expeditions out into the Sounds and has been a playground, swimming area and social gathering place for the iwi. The area, its history, its daily use, management and any plans for its future, are therefore very important to Te Ātiawa.

The Arapawa Māori Rowing Club building has served the people of Te Ātiawa for many years as their Whareniui, their Meeting House and for a wide range of important Te Ātiawa socio-cultural events. In recognition of this, the building now partly sits on its own title vested in Te Ātiawa in 2014 through the Treaty of Waitangi Settlement process.

The iwi has had aspirations for a number of years to develop an area of the reserve for its own purposes.

Waikawa Ratepayers & Residents Association



This Association was first incorporated in 1976 and has encouraged and supported improvement of facilities on the reserve over a number of years.

Of significance have been improvements to and maintenance of the launching ramp prior to this coming under the Council's control.

Donations collected by the Association from users of the launching ramp have helped fund improvements, including new barbecues installed recently. Association members continue to be involved in managing the launching ramp and take keen interest in the reserve as a whole.

Have your say!

As a resident of the Waikawa/Waitohi (Picton) area and/or a user of the foreshore reserve you may have thoughts or ideas on how this area could or should be used, managed and developed.

We are very keen to hear your thoughts and would like to know particularly, amongst other things:

- How often you (or your family) use the reserve?
- How do you use the reserve? (e.g. picnicking, launching boat etc)
- What are the things that you enjoy most about the reserve?
- Do you have any significant concerns about how the reserve is currently looked after?
- Do have any suggestions about what, and how, the reserve could be improved?

Once the initial feedback period closes, a draft management plan will be prepared. From this, there will be a more formal opportunity for you to provide written submissions and present these to a hearings panel if you wish. While we would have normally had face to face meetings with groups in the community about developing the plan, under the current limitations on gatherings under the Covid-19 restrictions, this cannot occur. Instead the initial feedback will need to be provided online but there will also be opportunity to arrange online meetings (or phone calls) as well. As the Covid-19 restrictions are modified, the opportunities for engagement with the community will be reviewed.



Process for plan development

PHASE	APPROXIMATE TIMEFRAME
Request for feedback/suggestions	Late April 2020
Feedback closes	Early June 2020
Develop draft plan and Council process	September – December 2020
Draft plan released to public for submissions	January 2021 – March 2021
Submissions close	March 2021
Hear submissions	May 2021
Develop final plan	Late 2021

Tell us what you think

Your feedback or suggestions should be made in writing and reach the Council by 5pm, Friday 12 June.

There is no set format for providing your feedback or suggestions but an online form is available at: www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/have-your-say-consultations.

Feedback can also be emailed to waikawaforeshorermp@marlborough.govt.nz.

Feedback or suggestions can be made in writing and sent to:

Linda Craighead
Parks Planner
Marlborough District Council
PO Box 443
Blenheim 7240

Please make sure you include your name and contact details so we can keep you informed about how development of the plan is progressing.

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.

