

WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

(Hearing of Submissions Reserve Management Plan – Pohutukawa Reserve)

Minutes of a Special Meeting of Council to Hear Submissions on the Reserve Management Plan – Pohutukawa Reserve, held in the Wairoa District Council Chambers, Coronation Square, Queen Street, Wairoa on Tuesday 29 March 2007 at 1:00pm.

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor, L Probert (Chair)

COUNCILLORS

S Birrell, B McKinnon, G McIntyre, B Shortt, and D Caves

IN ATTENDANCE: T Cook (Administration Manager)
N Cook (Engineering Manager)

General Items

POHUTUKAWA RESERVES MANAGEMENT PLAN - SUBMISSIONS **I.18.01**

His Worship the Mayor welcomed those in attendance at the meeting, and called upon submitters to speak to their submissions. Verbal submissions were then heard.

SUBMITTER: Queenie Whaanga

Mrs Whaanga strongly objected to the proposed Reserve Management Planning, stating that it was too expensive. Mrs Whaanga believed that Council and the people of Mahia needed to get together to resolve issues facing people at Mahia, particularly the Maori Community. Mrs Whaanga stated that she would like to see Mahia remain as a passive area, free for all to enjoy.

His Worship the Mayor thanked Mrs Whaanga for her submission, stating that there had been ample opportunity for the public to relay their concerns at public meetings held at Mahia, and meetings held on marae with Iwi of Mahia.

SUBMITTER: John Aitchison

Mr Aitchison stated that he agreed with the objectives and policies as set out in the general Landscape Development Plan, but strongly opposed and provision of parking for Commercial Fishing Boats on the reserve. Mr Aitchison also presented an alternative proposal as related to the fencing of Pohutukawa Reserve, which segregated areas of the Reserve as passive/recreational areas, and parking/picnic areas.

Councillor Birrell advised Mr Aitchison that he saw merit in his proposal as the current fence inhibited passive use of the Reserve. The proposal presented by Mr Aitchison allowed freer access, while still eliminating the activities of 'boy racers' on the Reserve, which had been the original reason for erecting the current fence.

SUBMITTER: John Williams

Mr Williams supported the concept of identified parking areas for getting boats and cars off the road, however rather than create new car parking facilities on the grassed area his preference was for parking to be located North of the existing Fishing Club facilities, in effect, where vehicle and boat trailers were often parked now. In acknowledging that safety was one of the main criteria for the development of a Reserves Management Plan for Pohutukawa Reserve, Mr Williams asked that 'speed bumps' be strategically placed on Newcastle Street to slow vehicles down.

In referring to recreational fishing, Mr Williams believed that boat trailers would be better placed where they currently are, to the right of the Fishing Club, this would allow other vehicles to park close to the dunes (the area currently suggested for boat trailers) allowing passive recreational users a better view of the sea. In respect to Commercial Fishing, Mr Williams believed that Council would be setting a precedent by allowing, and in fact assisting, a commercial enterprise on a recreational reserve. Mr Williams did not believe that it was Council's position to assist in any individual commercial enterprise. Mr Williams added that commercial fishing boats on the reserve were an eye sore, obstructed peoples view of the ocean and bay, and tore up the grass and tarseal. Most commercial fisherman looked after their own boats, and parked them elsewhere when not in use and Mr Williams believed that this should be the practice of all commercial fishermen.

Councillors discussed possible variances to car parking facilities that would suit the needs of passive recreational users. Councillor Shortt expressed concern at the lack of any submission having been received from the Mahia Fishing Club as related to parking. While the Fishing Club had entered into discussion with Council's Consultant in developing the plan, no submission had been received to support parking options that had been presented.

SUBMITTER: Allan & John Dickson (Murray Tonks)

Mr Allan Dickson thanked Council for the opportunity to speak to his submission, and introduced Mr Murray Tonks who would deliver the submission on his behalf, with Council's permission.

Mr Tonks circulated an amended proposal plan, relating specifically to parking issues and copies of photographs to illustrate the plans concept to Councillors.

Mr Tonks informed Councillors that the Dicksons supported the concept of creating a dedicated boat parking/storage area, however recommended that it be located slightly further to the South, just beyond the junction of Newcastle and Weld Streets. The suggestion was that the existing drain could be piped and covered over with the area then being designated for boat parking. If Council were to support this concept, the Dickson family were prepared to contribute financially toward the cost of piping, and filling in, the drain.

The Dickson's supported the maintenance of Mokotahi Landing Reserve as a separate Reserve, and as such supported the continuation of the existing gazetted designation of the Reserve as being for boat landing purposes.

The Dickson's submitted that the concept plan for Pohutukawa Reserve be amended to allow controlled vehicle access to the grassed area that was fenced off in 2005.

Councillor McIntyre sought qualification from the Dickson's as to who would be able to use the proposed parking/storage area if it were to be included in the plan. The Dickson's stated that they were seeking a co-existence with all fisherman, and that use of the parking facilities would be on a 'first come first served' basis.

Councillor Caves queried whether there was a definition as to when a fisherman was recreational, commercial, and/or customary. Mr John Dickson stated that he could be all three. He was commercial when he was out meeting his quota for the day, he could be recreational when catching anything outside of his intended quota, and he could be customary when gathering seafood for specific cultural purposes.

In the absence of any further speakers, His Worship the Mayor thanked submitters for making submissions and asked that the meeting be adjourned and reconvenes to consider the summary of submissions prepared by Council's Consultant.

ADJOURNED: 1:59 PM

RECONVENED: 2:15 PM

POHUTUKAWA RESERVES MANAGEMENT PLAN - SUBMISSIONS

I.18.01

His Worship the Mayor welcomed Sue Dick to the meeting and looked forward to receiving her presentation on a summary of submissions received. He then called on Councillors for comments as related to submitters that had already been heard.

Councillor Birrell stated that he was impressed with the amended parking plan that had been presented by Mr John Aitchison. The proposed concept achieved Council's original intention of stopping the 'boy racers' while also giving unimpeded access to the beach and dunes.

Councillor Caves stated that Mr Williams concern at grassed areas being torn up and replaced with tarseal and fill should be taken into account when determining preferred parking areas. In referring to the Dickson submission, Councillor Caves believed that further advice was required as to where the line was drawn in determining what was commercial, recreational, or customary.

Councillor Shortt agreed, further adding that the areas currently defined as car parking, and trailer parking on the concept plan, should be reversed.

Council's Consultant then presented 'A Summary of Submissions received.' Mrs Dick informed Councillor's that the most controversial issue throughout submissions, related to the parking of commercial fishing boats.

Mrs Dick then highlighted each of the twenty-eight issues that had been raised in submissions, suggesting possible actions for Council to consider. Mrs Dick presented a list of 'first' priorities for Council, as related to completing their decision making process. Mrs Dick was prepared to, re-draft the proposed plan to include an amended fence alignment, redraft boat launch areas to maintain grassed sections and implement a plan of staged changes, amend the remainder of the report as required, and to present a final report and plan to Council for adoption. The second priority was the preparation of a schedule of immediate works, the implementation of turning circle, beach access through the dune system via ramps, the implementation of agreed changes to the existing fence line, and a requirement of the owner of R31 to remove all waste and rubbish from the site and restore it to an acceptable standard. Other options presented for consideration were, the redesign and improvements to Mokotahi Landing, the upgrading of existing signage and facilities, provision of Barbeques, and the restricting of vehicle access along the beachfront.

Councillors thanked Mrs Dick for her summary presentation, and acknowledged that they needed to resolve the commercial fishing boat issue prior to making decisions on any other issues that related to the reserves Management Plan.

Councillor's discussed the concept plan that had been presented by the Dickson's to establish four boat parking/storage parks on R34. Councillors determined that more information was required that related to the proposed site prior to making any decisions. Council also noted that a large number of submissions had been received that were not in favour of commercial fishing boats being located anywhere on the reserve, and as such these also needed to be taken into consideration. Councillors discussed the need for a Bylaw to enable the restricting of overnight parking of boats and trailers on the Reserve.

The Engineering Manager and Council's Consultant were instructed to draft a concept plan for Mokotahi Landing, that showed an allowance for the parking of large/commercial fishing boats, and to consult on the plan to determine whether the proposed area was suitable, and whether the over-night parking of fishing boats and trailers in that area was acceptable. The Engineering Manager, Council's Consultant, and Portfolio Holders were to meet on site to enable a better understanding of the area and what was being proposed.

Resolved:	<i>That Council implement a Bylaw that prevents the over-night parking of boats, trailers, tractors, and motorised vehicles on Pohutukawa reserve, excluding R34.</i> Birrell/Shortt
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With the above resolution effectively preventing the over-night parking of any vehicles on Pohutukawa Reserve, Councillors asked Mrs Dick to incorporate recommendations within her report, and identified priorities into the Reserves Management Plan for Pohutukawa Reserve, including amendments to the existing fence line.

<u>Resolved:</u>	<i>That Council adopt the amended fencing plan for implementation on Pohutukawa Reserve.</i>	Caves/McIntyre
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Councillor Caves queried whether it was timely for Council to reconsider their policy on future provision of parking for Motor Homes, primarily due to the increasing number of people using them as their preferred means of travel and accommodation. His Worship the Mayor acknowledged that Motor Homes were becoming a more prominent feature within the District, and that it was an issue that Council should consider.

His Worship the Mayor thanked Councillor's and Mrs Dick for their attendance at the meeting, and looked forward to receiving the amended Reserves Management Plan – Pohutukawa Reserve for final adoption by Council.

There being no further General Business, the His Worship the Mayor, declared the meeting closed:

MEETING CLOSED: 4:05 PM