

Minutes for a meeting of the General Policies Reserves Management Plan Hearings Panel held in the Council Chambers, District Office, 15 Galileo Street, Ngaruawahia **MONDAY, 17 APRIL 2023** commencing at **9.15am**.

Present:

Cr JM Gibb (Chairperson)
Cr C Beavis (arrived 9:30am)
Cr T Turner

Attending:

Mr R Gibbs (Tamahere Mangaone Restoration Trust)
Mr L Koppens (Tamahere Mangaone Restoration Trust)
Ms C Robertson (Auckland Waikato Fish and Game)
Mr J Lawson (*via audiovisual link*)
Mrs A Greensill (Tainui o Tainui)
Mr A Greensill (Tainui o Tainui)
Mr H West (Sport Waikato)

Mr A Averill (Deputy General Manager, Service Delivery)
Mr M Horsfield (Reserve Planner)
Ms R Serhan (Reserve Planner)
Ms Annette Champion (Xyst Consulting)
Ms R Leahy (Democracy Advisor)

Cr Turner opened the meeting with a Karakia.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON

Resolved: (Crs Turner/Gibb)

THAT Cr Gibb be appointed Chairperson of the General Policies Reserves Management Plan Hearings Panel.

CARRIED

INFHE2304/01

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Resolved: (Crs Gibb/Turner)

THAT the apology from Cr Beavis for lateness be accepted.

CARRIED

INFHE2304/02

CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS

Resolved: (Cr Turner/Gibb)

THAT:

- a. the agenda for a meeting of the **General Policies Reserves Management Plan Hearings Panel** held on **Monday, 17 April 2023** be confirmed;
- b. all items therein be considered in open meeting; and
- c. all reports be received.

CARRIED

INFHE2304/03

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

REPORTS

Resolved: (Crs Gibb/Turner)

That the General Policies Reserve Management Plan Hearings Panel:

- a. considers all the submissions received pursuant to section 41(6)(d) of the **Reserves Act 1977**, the **General Policies Reserve Management Plan**.

CARRIED

INFHE2304/04

Hearing of submissions on the draft General Policies Reserve Management Plan
Agenda Item 5.1

The report was received [INFHE2304/03 refers], and the follow discussion was held:

- The General Policies Reserves Management Plan was adopted in 2015 and sets objectives and policies applied to all the reserves in the District. Under the Reserves Act the Reserves Management Policies are meant to be kept under review.
- It was noted that 42 submissions were received, the majority of which were in the early engagement stage. The second round of Public consultation received fewer submissions, suggesting that the Plan was broadly accepted by the public.
- There had been some technological advances that needed to be addressed i.e. drones and e-cigarettes.

Cr Beavis arrived at the Hearing at 9.30am

**Clare Robertson on behalf of Auckland Wildlife Fish and Game
(Submission ID 5826)**

- The submitter was largely supportive of the General Reserves Management Plan, however, wanted to focus on leases and licences.
- The submitter noted that there were a number of reserves in the Waikato District that were currently leased or utilised for grazing without any formal agreement. Grazing on Council Reserves was often poorly managed or had a lack of oversight from Waikato District Council. Many of the reserves that were grazed are adjacent to waterways which could lead to the degradation of waterways and ecosystems.
- The submitter suggested Council conduct a stock take of the reserves under Council administration to gain an understanding of what practices are in place on those reserves and how to better protect the biodiversity of the surrounding areas.

**Russell Gibbs on behalf of Tamahere Mangaone Restoration Trust
(Submission ID 5826)
Attachment 5.1A**

- It was noted that there had been an error in the report. The Tamahere Mangaone Restoration Trust's submission had not been included in the agenda and an incorrect submission had been attributed to the submitter.
- It was noted that the Tamahere Community Committee's submission was also not submitted, Mr Gibbs provided a copy of the submission to the Panel for consideration **(Attachment 5.1B)**.
- The Trust was largely supportive of the Plan however, it was noted that an engagement strategy would be beneficial for community groups.
- The Trust believed there was a need for separate section in the Plan to deal with scientific, ecological and natural resources within the district.
- The Trust's primary focus is the rehabilitation of gullies, removing invasive species and creating walkways for the community. With this in mind, the Trust would like to see a consistent plan in place to address the weed issue in the district and the implementation of a biodiversity plan.
- The Trust raised a concern about Council's reserve naming policy, community consultation and engagement was necessary.

John Lawson (Submission ID 5827)

- It was noted that staff had accepted many of the submitter's points.
- The submitter discussed ways of minimising climate change through promoting active transport.
- The submitter stated that having sheep instead of cattle grazing on council reserves would be less carbon intensive and better for people walking on the reserves.
- The submitter suggested planting Manuka on reserves, instead of grazing cattle, which would enable manuka honey to be harvested and sold.

- The submitter discussed carparks and was concerned about the amount of money Council spent on carparks in the district.

Resolved (Crs Beavis/Turner)

That the General Policies Reserve Management Plan Hearings Panel deliberates on the amendments to the draft plan to reflect the submissions.

CARRIED

INFHE2304/05

The meeting adjourned at 10:15am and resumed at 10:40am.

Angeline Greensill on behalf of Tainui o Tainui

- It was noted that the submitter originally indicated that they would not be attending the Hearing, however decided to attend the Hearing. The Committee agreed to hear their submission.
- The submitter discussed ongoing Treaty claims and co-governance and including it in the Plan.
- The submitter discussed prohibiting horses and vehicles on beaches in the district to prevent coastal erosion. The submitter stated that there needed to be stronger bylaws alongside monitoring and implementation in place to stop this from occurring.
- The submitter raised a concern about the lack of oversight of commemorative seats, such seats should only be reserved for people who live in the district. It was noted that this was out of scope for this Plan.
- The submitter stated that there should be penalties in place for the destruction and graffiti of Council signage.

DELIBERATIONS

- It was suggested that there should be an amendment to the policy to include ‘natural shade from trees rather than structures.

ACTION: Staff to update policy with the inclusion of shade from trees.

- A discussion was held on smoking and vaping in playgrounds. Submissions talked about providing spaces for people to smoke and vape, this was accepted in part. However, it was not consistent with Smokefree 2025.

ACTION: Policy to ban smoking and vaping on Reserves and playgrounds.

- A discussion was held around whether horse riding should be included in the policy.

ACTION: Staff to investigate whether horse riding should be mentioned in the plan or covered in the bylaw.

ACTION: Staff to expand/mention the benefits of environmental volunteers in the Plan.

ACTION: General Policies Reserve Management Plan to be updated to reference Taiao.

- Discussion was held around pastoral management and fencing waterways. It was suggested that a section be added on pastoral management. It was noted that the Strategic Property Team were currently undertaking work around this space.
- Discussion was held around reducing mowing and naturalising reserves.

ACTION: Staff to include or investigate adding a policy around naturalisation.

- A discussion was held on Sport Waikato's submission on the development of reserves. It was suggested that the policy could have an intent for any reserve to look for and encourage active modes of transport. It was noted that not all reserves would be appropriate for this but could be considered when new parks were in the planning stage.

ACTION: Staff to include consideration to reserves and active transport.

ACTION: Staff to include benefits of 'sports hubbing' in the plan.

- Discussion was held on co-management and co-governance. It was noted that the broader Council policy was co-governance.

ACTION: Plan to refer to Joint Management Agreement held agreements for reserves and acknowledge the long-term aspirations to work with mana-whenua.

- Discussion was held on the reserves naming policy in the Plan and the Tamahere Reserve. It was noted that name 'Maniapoto Reserve' had been offered by local iwi. Under the current policy there was no requirement for public consultation about the name if it was offered by iwi.
- The Subcommittee agreed that the reserve naming policy should remain as is.
- A discussion was held on if a reserves schedule should be included in the Plan. A concern was raised that the classification process for reserves hadn't been completed. It was noted that most Councils in New Zealand did not consistently classify all their reserves.
- It was suggested that a policy be included that stated Waikato District Council intended to undertake the process of classifying all its reserves. It was noted that the classification process would be time and resource intensive. Therefore, it would require a long-time frame to complete.

ACTION: Staff to investigate wording around classifying reserves under the Reserve Act.

The Hearings Panel adjourned with a Karakia.

The deliberations adjourned at 12:27pm and it was agreed that staff would come back with the suggested amendments for further deliberation by the panel.

ACTION: Staff to schedule another deliberations date for the panel.

Minutes approved and confirmed this 5th day of July 2023

JM Gibb
CHAIRPERSON