

# **Kāpiti Coast Choosing Futures Community Outcomes**

## **Peka Peka Local Outcomes**

**Peka Peka** – a quiet, peaceful, seaside hamlet in semi-rural surroundings. A place where residents and visitors alike enjoy and respect its unique qualities – **A very special place!**

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## Introduction

Between 2003 and 2004, the Council undertook districtwide consultation to create '*Kāpiti Coast: Choosing Futures – Community Outcomes*'. These Outcomes were reviewed again in 2008/09 and published as *Kāpiti Coast Choosing Futures 2009 Community Vision*. These processes aim to represent the community's aspirations for the District. Since 2003 a number of Local Outcome Statements have also been developed by and for the various communities within the District. The Peka Peka Outcomes Statement is one of these, and sets out the local community's vision for the Peka Peka area.

It is important to recognise that it sits under the umbrella of *Kāpiti Choosing Futures – Community Outcomes*, which covers areas such as the natural environment, growth management, protection of character, access, efficient use of resources, increasing local employment choices, creating a place that works for young people, and general enjoyment of what the Kāpiti Coast has to offer. It is not intended to repeat this broader vision here, but the outcomes are referred to.

*Kāpiti Coast: Choosing Futures – Community Outcomes* acknowledges the particular character of communities and places along the Kāpiti coast. It does this in broad terms and the focus of the Peka Peka Local Outcomes Statement is to provide guidance for what this means for Peka Peka.

*Kāpiti Coast: Choosing Futures – Community Outcomes* and any Local Outcomes documents, such as the draft set out here; have status under the Local Government Act 2002. Provided that the desired community outcomes are consistent with a sustainable development approach and support the social, cultural, environmental and economic wellbeing of people and communities

(both local and districtwide), the District Council and central government agencies must show how their actions progress this community vision.

The Community and Local Outcomes cannot bind an agency to a future direction or a particular level of investment. These issues have to be balanced against needs and requirements in other areas and across the District as a whole. However, these documents together act as a touchstone for assessing the performance of agencies in supporting the community wellbeing. It also provides a more tangible basis for engagement between communities, agencies and institutions on particular issues.

The Community and Local Outcomes signal a collectively desired direction for the area as a place and as a community. The challenge is for the residents to become involved in doing things to make their community work. These Outcomes present a challenge for everyone in the future.

The key districtwide outcomes which relate to Peka Peka are:

- Outcome One: There are healthy natural systems which people can enjoy;
- Outcome Two: Local character is retained within a cohesive District;
- Outcome Seven: The District has a strong, healthy and involved community;

The remainder of the districtwide Outcomes are detailed in *Kāpiti Coast: Choosing Futures 2009 Community Vision*.

## Background

The Peka Peka coastline has a rich history of Māori occupation, with the coast providing an important transport route and plentiful sources of food from the sea, rivers, estuaries, streams, wetlands and forests. Ngati Raukawa ki te Tonga to the north and Ati Awa ki Whakarongotai to the south are tāngata whenua of the Peka Peka area.

The coastal strip from Peka Peka to Te Horo is one of the last largely undeveloped areas of coastal private land in the District. The preservation of this strip is essential if it is to be considered a high value biodiversity area in the Kāpiti Coast.

Over the decades farming has modified the inland areas and the effects of land drainage and mechanical cultivation have changed landform. Although the higher inland dunes still remain, much of the coastal dunes have been subject to grazing by sheep and cattle. Despite this the dune landforms are still relatively intact and continue to be shaped by the coastal environment. Colonisation by non-native plant species has altered the biodiversity, together with the removal of native vegetation from what was once flax swamp.

The Peka Peka coastline consists of wide, accreting sandy beaches, backed by dunes and isolated settlements. The dunes north of Peka Peka need special protection because they are of national significance.

Vegetation on the dunes is a mixture of low growing native and exotic coastal species interspersed with a mixture of pest plants and wind-shorn trees such as kanuka and taupata. There is very little of the natural dune vegetation left.

Peka Peka enjoys the reputation of being a free beach where all activities are permitted including horse and dog exercise, vehicles, land yachts and other pedestrian and water based activities.

The ready access to the beach in such close proximity to rural landscapes is one of the key features that make Peka Peka unique.

There is only one public vehicle access to the beach (at the end of Peka Peka Road) and two additional pedestrian accesses at Marram Way and in the Pharayzn Reserve (south end of Paetawa Road).

The Peka Peka coastline is the most important resource this community has. The protection and enhancement of this area is paramount. It follows that a very high priority should be placed on dune restoration and protection and the formation of controlled accessways.

Te Kowhai Stream estuary is also a valuable part of the Peka Peka environment, but needs to be managed and protected.

Peka Peka residents agree they want to retain the beach hamlet and semi-rural residential character, with no major changes in infrastructure and no medium density housing. They want to retain the landform and a high degree of naturalness.

However, there is continued pressure to subdivide rural land along the coast for residential purposes, for example the Tasman Lakes subdivision, and this is likely to continue. Thinking about future generations would influence limiting the number of subdivisions that are permitted in the few remaining 'wild areas' on our coast.

## **Districtwide Outcome 1 There are healthy natural systems which people can enjoy**

This Outcome area contains a number of detailed outcomes relevant to Peka Peka, including the following:

### **Key natural areas shape the fundamental form and quality of the District's settlements through the following:**

#### **The coast in its entirety is recognised:**

- as a complex system that is affected by actions along its length;
- as being central to the local culture and lifestyle;
- as a place that is valued for its natural and wild feel;
- as being the marine edge, the front dunes and dune wetlands; and this is supported by;
- retaining the wild character and the health of the coastal ecosystems as a first priority in any decisions;
- retaining dune lands and wetlands in subdivision design and development;
- avoiding any further new greenfields subdivision on the front dunes and associated wetlands.

#### **The bird corridor exists from the coast to the hills with:**

- native plant food sources along the river and stream corridors;
- fingers and pockets of bush extending out into the surrounding residential and rural areas.

### **Kāpiti Coast becomes nationally famous for an extensive walkway, cycle and bridleway system that includes the following features:**

- a coastal walkway and cycleway from Paekākāriki to Ōtaki and north;
- good local linkages to schools and centres.

### **The coast is managed:**

- as a comprehensive resource and ecosystem;
- in a way that tries to keep the coastal edge as natural as possible;
- in a way that recognises certain areas have been modified and key issues are managing hazards and improving appearance and access.

### **The District becomes known for best practice subdivision design that includes trees, landforms, waterways, parks, walkways, cycleways and bridleways as features in developments.**

### **The District has best practice stormwater and flood management including:**

- systems designed to reduce sediment and pollution runoff;
- river works and stormwater system design linked to restoration goals;
- upper catchments managed to reduce flood risk and improve water quality.

### **Vulnerable areas of native vegetation and wildlife are protected including:**

- species endemic to the area;
- areas of existing bush and wetlands on the coastal hills and coastal plain; and
- dunes.

**A significant number of people within the District are actively involved in restoration of the natural environment.**

**People:**

- know about their natural areas and how to care for them;
- have access to information about marine, freshwater and bush environments;
- know about projects that are happening;
- know about community success in restoration.

**Further Local Outcomes for Peka Peka**

**Natural Environment**

- the natural environment is preserved, protected and restored including the seaward dunes and the bird reserve/wetlands;
- the dunes are protected against invasive weeds and exotic plants are eradicated, e.g. boxthorn.
- the natural biodiversity and green corridors are enhanced;
- the marine environment is protected from indiscriminate commercial fishing;
- easy access to the beach and fishing is retained and unauthorised beach accessways are closed off;
- there are fewer paths at Te Kowhai stream;
- the correct name of Te Kowhai Stream is acknowledged (it is not Hadfield Drain) and its twin function of wetland and drainage for farms is supported;
- more park/recreation areas at the end of Paetawa Rd for walking / cycling is provided and open space/recreational areas are ear-marked on plan;

- more trees are planted;
- Pharazyn Reserve ponds are kept for passive recreation and quiet activities.

**Water / Stormwater / Septic Tanks**

- effective water management occurs in medium to long term;
- environmental restoration work is combined with improving drainage particularly on Te Kowhai Stream and the flooding risk is managed with regular maintenance of under road drains;
- the impact of increased housing numbers on aquifers is limited;
- the dependence on septic tanks is reviewed as these have the potential for pollution of local beach.

## **Districtwide Outcome 2: Local character is retained within a cohesive District**

This Outcome focuses on the uniqueness of each of the communities along the coast and concentrating on those things that link people together to create a cohesive whole.

**The role, nature and character of each of Kāpiti Coast's towns, villages, local and special areas, is respected and retained, and shapes the future form and quality of the District.**

- Peka Peka maintains its current hamlet and semi-rural beach character and low density lifestyle.

### **Further Local Outcomes for Peka Peka Built Character**

- future residential development is restricted to the defined area of the Peka Peka beach hamlet being the current residential zone. Rural parts of Peka Peka will achieve a range of section/lot sizes to accommodate rural residential and a mix of productive uses complying with the subdivision guidelines;
- visual effects of development are minimised by enforcing height restrictions in the dune area;
- unoccupied land by the beach is purchased as public land with public access;
- the use of Māori place names is improved for reserves, roads and subdivisions;
- interpretive signage is introduced;
- light pollution is minimised to retain beach ambience by using discreet street lighting;
- natural walkways are developed all through Peka Peka;
- new subdivisions are encouraged to plant appropriate coastal plants.

### **Road Design**

Peka Peka has traditionally been an area that has attracted horse riding activity. The beach is particularly well suited to exercising horses. Locals and visitors frequent the beach and provision for bridleways and parking for horse floats at the beach is needed.

- the hamlet and semi-rural beach character of Peka Peka is reflected in the road design, for example no white line marking on the roads, streets do not have footpaths;
- roads are designed to encourage lower speeds, so that pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders can share the road space safely;
- large street signs are prevented to limit visual pollution.

### **Beach Access**

Ready access to the beach is a key feature of the Peka Peka community. Residents share the one main beach access with numerous visitors to the area.

- a balance is maintained between providing greater carparking facilities and toilets and retaining the natural feel of the beach.

## **District wide Outcome 3: The Nature and rate of population growth is appropriate to community goals**

**The Kāpiti Coast does not simply react to external population pressure, but rather, that population growth relates to the vision for the District – particularly:**

- the timing and release of new land for residential subdivision;
- the timing and release of new land for other development; and
- accommodation of natural local population growth.

**Key natural features and the character and scale of communities should shape the location of population growth in a way that supports community outcomes and vision.**

**New growth can be clearly linked to local community and District benefit.**

**The community is always involved in decisions about impacts of growth on strategic vision and community outcomes.**

### **Further Outcomes for Peka Peka**

The development of Peka Peka is controlled by appropriate zoning in defined boundaries. These controls will ensure the low key residential character is achieved and retained, and that development is not driven by:

- further zone changes to residential; and
- private plan changes that increase demands on the natural resources and local infrastructure.

## **Districtwide Outcome 7: The District has a strong healthy and involved community**

This outcome is concerned with the direct health and wellbeing of each person in the District. The other outcomes will all contribute to people's enjoyment and confidence in the future of their local and District community. However, people also have a vision of individual physical health, of access, of enjoyment and fun. The vision also includes the idea of involvement and participation, not just as a contribution to community feeling but because of an individual sense of value and control over their lives. This outcome is particularly relevant for Peka Peka which is still a small emerging community

**The District's main public places, including beaches, are safe, attractive and accessible to everyone in the community, including the elderly and people with disabilities.**

**There are extensive linkages within the District in addition to State Highway 1, including:**

- an extensive walkway, bridleway and cycleway system.

**There is efficient and economical public transport for people to get to venues, services, amenities and entertainment including:**

- good bus connections from the train at night.

**There is a comprehensive planned approach to recreation facilities/programmes which provides for Districtwide as well as local services including:**

- improved access to and management of the District's beaches;
- active recreation facilities, available for community use, in a way that protects and respects areas valued by the community.

**That there is a high level of participation in community decision-making within communities and across the District.**

**People are encouraged and enabled to take action and responsibility and to live in a sustainable way, and have access to community spaces and opportunities to share resources and knowledge.**

**People are valued and respected for the contribution they make to a strong and diverse community, especially where this contribution is through volunteering.**

## Further Local Outcomes for Peka Peka

### Building a cohesive sense of community to enable Peka Peka to develop as a community

Peka Peka is a small and emerging community. It has no central community point of focus. The settlement has grown from random seaside baches and holiday homes to a community in its own right, but with no community amenities. There is a balance to keeping the hamlet and semi-rural beach character of Peka Peka but also to foster a sense of community.

- focal points for the community and places for community interaction are provided for example:
  - community hall;
  - simple community reserve;
  - somewhere to post messages for the community;
  - Civil Defence meeting point and communication;
  - tennis court – small club house;
  - petanque court.
- design and location of any small shops are sensitive to the environment;
- Neighbourhood Support is encouraged;
- local community and iwi representation is continued on the Pharazyn Reserve;
- what constitutes the Peka Peka Local Community is defined;
- Peka Peka is represented by the Waikanae Community Board.

### Public transport

With improved rail services to Waikanae and limited parking available at the railway station, there is a role for advocacy with Greater Wellington for a bus service linking Peka Peka to the Waikanae Railway station.

- better public transport and access to rail and shops is provided for example:
  - a bus to Paetawa Rd a few times a day weekdays;
  - a bus shelter is built at the Kensington Rd / Peka Peka Rd intersection;
  - a shopper's bus service;
  - a bus route down Rutherford Drive to join the Peka Peka route.