



SUBMISSION BY WAIKANAЕ COMMUNITY BOARD – DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PLAN – OTARAUA PARK

The Waikanae Community Board (“WCB”) is a creature of statute, taking its current constitution from the Local Government Act 2002. The Waikanae Board is established pursuant to s49 of that Act. Such a Board where established is for each community in accordance with schedule 6 of the Act.

Role of community Boards

The WCB has legal mandate to make a submission in terms of section 52 of the Local Government Act 2002 and provides:

52 Role of community boards

The role of a community board is to—

- (a) represent, and act as an advocate for, the interests of its community; and*
- (b) consider and report on all matters referred to it by the territorial authority, or any matter of interest or concern to the community board; and*
- (c) maintain an overview of services provided by the territorial authority within the community; and*
- (d) prepare an annual submission to the territorial authority for expenditure within the community; and*
- (e) communicate with community organisations and special interest groups within the community; and*
- (f) undertake any other responsibilities that are delegated to it by the territorial authority.*

Otaraua Park

The Waikanae Community welcomes the opportunity to be able to make a submission on the Draft Development Plan for Otaraуa Park, which it hopes will ultimately become real community asset.

Otaraua Park is classified a Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977. It is a district wide park. It is approximately 60 hectares comprising flat accessible moderately fertile alluvial river terraces located between the Waikanae River and the secondary sand dunes of Ōtaihangа. Otaraуa Park is located on the south bank of the Waikanae River and is adjacent to land administered for flood control by Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC). The Waikanae Community Board welcomes this land purchase by the Kāpiti Coast District Council under the Strategic Land Purchase Policy in 2012 for public use and enjoyment including: sport and recreation, a network of cycle, walking and bridle paths connecting surrounding communities, an open space buffer between the urban areas of Waikanae, Paraparaumu and Ōtaihangа, a parkland environment with high amenity values as well as for its

ecological values with potential to support development of an ecological corridor that runs from mountain to sea through a marine reserve to include Kāpiti Island bird sanctuary.

Although this Park is not within the bounds of the Waikanae Ward, it is directly to the south of the Waikanae River, the southern boundary of the Waikanae Ward. It is used, and will continue to be used more by Waikanae residents.

Contiguous with use of the Otaraua Park by Waikanae residents is access. At present there is currently only one vehicular access into Otaraua Park off Lancelot Grove, via Otaihanga Road. The Draft Plan indicates additional access from the current SH1. Foot and bike access to the Park from Waikanae can be achieved via two foot bridges, Te Arawai footbridge which is very close to Otaraua Park, and the more distance footbridge at Otaihanga.

The Otaraua Management Plan 2014, states that the constraints to future vehicular access include crossing of the Waikanae River, double track rail corridor and/or private land, although investigation of alternative vehicular access will continue to be explored. The Waikanae Community Board strongly supports a vehicular access to Waikanae, and sooner than later. Access from the end of Nimmo Avenue West or Greenway Road appear to be the most logical and cost effective options. This would reduce the bottleneck of those coming from the south getting to and from the park, particularly for large events. This will also maximise use of the facilities between the two sites if shared events are planned and will take traffic off the old State Highway and also encourage cycling and pedestrian access from Waikanae. The Board proposes that the concept plan allows for long-term vehicular access from Waikanae in the future.

In relation to foot and bike access once over the river, currently there is no direct access into the park, other than travelling some distance to the current main entrance. The Draft Development Plan shows direct access from three points, two are near the north eastern corner of the Park, and the other, adjacent to the Te Arawai footbridge. The Waikanae Community Board welcomes the addition of these access points but recommends several more south of the Te Arawai footbridge.

The Draft Development Plan identifies and prioritises actions including estimated time-frames and costs in line with existing Long Term Plan budgets from 2018/19 to 2025/2 and beyond. The Waikanae Community Board supports the intention that the term development of Otaraua Park will be paid by a mix of rates and external funding, a model the Board is endeavoring to pursue. Some early development is already funded through the 2018-2038 Long Term Plan (LTP) until 2024/2025. There is also a budget for future years which may be reallocated in the 2021-2051 LTP based on the approved development plan but this budget will be alongside external funding. The Waikanae Community Board supports this overall approach. The Board notes that some of the \$153,000 budgeted to be spent in 2018/19 is for further drainage on the sports fields. The Board strongly supports this, as various

members have seen first-hand the very wet conditions in the winter months when it hasn't been a wet winter. Further to this, if vegetation on the northern side of playing field becomes too tall because of the species chosen, it may create differential ground conditions (moisture levels) and air conditions (light and temperature) – not ideal for playing a field sport. The Board generally supports the priorities but would like to see the SH1 vehicular access point into the Park be timetabled as at present it is not. The Board also notes there is no timeframe for the provision of foot access from Waikanae and requests this occurs within the next 3 years.

The Waikanae Community Board supports the concept plan. As a district wide park, the plan has multifaceted activities. The Board understands our diverse communities and their diverse needs and supports this approach. The Board also supports the use of innovative solution to water supply, wastewater and power. For example, are option being explored to use the natural resources of wind, sun and/or water so the site is self-sufficient in power? The Board also considers that a Dog Park, both off the lead and contained, would be of great benefit and use within this park. The Board notes that there is an area set aside for outdoor concerts. The Board again supports this idea and would like to see that the natural landscape is used to create a natural amphitheatre.

Jocelyn Prvanov
Chair Waikanae Community Board

28 August 2018