

Chairperson and Community Board Members
WAIKANAE COMMUNITY BOARD

2 OCTOBER 2018

Meeting Status: **Public**

Purpose of Report: For Decision

RESUMING POND MARGIN FILLING AT PHARAZYN RESERVE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 This report recommends that filling of the margins of the former oxidation ponds at Pharazyn Reserve is resumed subject to the renewal of resource consent.

DELEGATION

- 2 The Waikanae Community Board has the delegated authority to consider this matter under Part D of the Governance Structure and Delegations:

“Authority to listen, articulate, advise, advocate and make recommendations to Council on any matter of interest or concern to the local community”.

SIGNIFICANCE OF DECISION

- 3 This report does not trigger Council’s Significance Policy.

BACKGROUND

- 4 At the meeting of 29 August 2013 the Council established a panel to review the Pharazyn Reserve Management Plan.
- 5 As part of that report it was noted that concrete edging around the margins of the former oxidation ponds at Pharazyn Reserve were being covered with clean fill, which was then contoured and planted as part of pond rehabilitation prescribed by the Pharazyn Reserve Management Plan.
- 6 As the extent of filling was expected to be considered as part of reviewing the Pharazyn Reserve Management Plan, and the status of resource consent for the activity was queried, a resolution was passed by Council at the 29 August 2013 meeting stating there was to be no more filling of the pond edges until the review was completed.
- 7 Following the 29 August 2013 Council meeting the resource consents for filling of the ponds were checked and there were no issues at that time.
- 8 The driver for reviewing the Pharazyn Reserve Management Plan was an Annual Plan submission from the Kapiti Radio Yacht Club requesting changes to the plan to allow the club’s temporary use of one of the ponds to be formalised.
- 9 At the meeting of 13 June 2017 the Council passed a resolution to advise the Kapiti Radio Yacht Club to cease using Pharazyn Reserve ponds. In April 2018 the Kapiti Radio Yacht Club ceased using the Pharazyn Reserve ponds, having established itself at another venue. This meant the driver for changing the

Pharazyn Reserve Management Plan to accommodate the club's activities no longer existed.

- 10 On 13 June 2017 the Council also passed a resolution that a minor review of the Pharazyn Reserve Management Plan be undertaken to reflect progress that has been made with its implementation, to update references and to make minor drafting improvements.
- 11 This minor review is not deemed urgent, and is included in a Parks and Recreation reserve management plan review programme scheduled to commence in 2019/20.
- 12 During the five years since filling of the ponds was stopped members of the Pharazyn Reserve Focus Group repeatedly requested that filling be allowed to resume in accordance with the Pharazyn Reserve Management Plan.
- 13 The Pharazyn Reserve Focus Group has requested that the Waikanae Community Board recommend to Council that it approves the resumption of filling in accordance with the Pharazyn Reserve Management Plan.

CONSIDERATIONS

Issues

- 14 At the time of the initial Council report (August 2013) there was some uncertainty as to the status of resource consents for filling of the former oxidation ponds at Pharazyn Reserve. Following investigation in 2013 it was confirmed that Greater Wellington Regional Council granted consent for the filling on 19 January 2010, for a period of 15 years. Resource consent for earthworks within 20m of a water body was granted by Kāpiti Coast District Council on 23 December 2009. No consenting issues were identified at that time.
- 15 Filling, contouring and planting the concrete pond margins to naturalise their appearance and provide wildlife habitat is a priority of the Pharazyn Reserve Management Plan, because rehabilitating the ponds and reintegrating them with surrounding wetlands are principal management objectives.
- 16 As the Pharazyn Reserve Management Plan's management objectives are not currently up for review, and there is no longer any reason why they should not be pursued, it is proposed that filling of the pond margins is resumed.
- 17 At the time filling was stopped in 2013, about two thirds of the filling and half of the contouring and planting were completed. An aerial picture showing the extent of filling is attached to this report as Appendix 1. At the same rate full completion would occur in 2025, when Greater Wellington Regional Council consent for filling expires. This makes it desirable to resume filling as soon as practicable to maximise the chance of completion before costs associated with extending consent would be incurred.
- 18 In addition to furthering Pharazyn Reserve Management Plan objectives, it would be advantageous for Council to have Pharazyn Reserve as a disposal option for clean fill generated by Council projects or by events such as slips onto roads.
- 19 Resuming filling would also allow the Pharazyn Reserve Focus group to continue assisting the planting of contoured pond margins with native plants. The group still views completion of filling, contouring and planting as a priority.

Financial Considerations

20 There are no financial considerations with this decision. Any costs relating to obtaining fill will be met from existing budgets.

Legal Considerations

21 There are no legal considerations with this decision.

Consultation

22 There is no requirement to consult further on this decision.

Policy Implications

23 There are no policy implications with this decision.

Tāngata Whenua Considerations

24 There are no issues related to Tāngata Whenua or the Treaty of Waitangi.

Publicity Considerations

25 There are no publicity considerations with this decision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

26 That the Waikanae Community Board recommends that Council approves resumption of pond margin filling at Pharazyn Reserve.

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission by:

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ATTACHMENT:

Appendix 1: Current Extent of Filling of Pharazyn Reserve Ponds (2017 Aerial)

