

Chairperson and Community Board Members
WAIKANAЕ COMMUNITY BOARD

13 JUNE 2017

Meeting Status: **Public**

Purpose of Report: For Decision

PHARAZYN RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 To update the Waikanae Community Board on matters relating to the Pharazyn Reserve Management Plan

DELEGATION

- 2 The Waikanae Community Board has authority to make recommendations to Council in relation to local parks and reserves within its area.

BACKGROUND

- 3 In 2002 the Council adopted the Waikanae Wastewater Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan. Apart from technical issues relating to the past wastewater use of the ponds, the rehabilitation plan was almost entirely about reinstating the area as a wetland and its integration with the adjacent wetlands to the north and to the south of the site.
- 4 In 2005 the Council adopted the Pharazyn Reserve Management Plan. The management plan covers the entire reserve which includes the decommissioned ponds, the modified dune area and the coastal dunes. A copy of that plan is **attached** to this report.
- 5 In 2008 a staff level approval was granted to the Kapiti Radio Yacht Club to use the ponds at Pharazyn Reserve. The yacht club use was inconsistent with the approved management plan. The approval was expressed as being *“at Council’s pleasure”*, perhaps to reflect the inconsistency.

The club operates from the northern margin of the northern pond. The club has installed a jetty and marker buoys in the pond.

- 6 In 2011 the Kapiti Radio Yacht Club formally requested the Council to review the Management Plan to provide for the Club’s use of the ponds. The request was forwarded to the Waikanae Community Board which passed the following resolution: *“That the Waikanae Community Board recommends to the Kapiti Coast District Council that a comprehensive review of the Pharazyn Reserve Management Plan be undertaken...”*

The yacht club was permitted to continue using the ponds in the meantime.

- 7 In 2013 a joint Council/Community Board panel was set up to review the Management Plan. The work of the panel was not concluded.

- 8 In March this year a letter was received from Mark Byers on behalf of the Pharazyn Reserve Focus Group seeking implementation of some deferred aspects of the management plan and the giving of notice to the Kapiti Radio Yacht Club to vacate the ponds. The letter is **attached**.
- 9 At about the same time advice was received from the Kapiti Radio Yacht Club that natural weed growth is impacting on their use of the ponds and that they are now unable to sail the larger of their two classes of yachts there. They are seeking a new venue and Council staff are assisting the club with their search.

ISSUES

The status of the land within Pharazyn Reserve

- 10 The land known as Pharazyn Reserve is made up of five parcels of land. Two of these which are in the coastal dune area are local purpose reserve. These parcels and their reserve status were created through the deposit of a survey plan but it seems that they have never been formally classified.
- 11 The remaining three parcels of land do not appear to be reserve land at all. They are still held as public works for sewage treatment and disposal purposes.
- 12 The Reserves Act does not require a management plan to be prepared for local purpose reserve land. However there was nothing to prevent the Council from electing to adopt a management plan for local purpose reserve or non-reserve land as it has chosen to do in the case of Pharazyn Reserve. In fact it would be regarded as good practice to do so for an area of land such as this.
- 13 It seems clear from the management plan that it was the Council's intention to hold Pharazyn Reserve as land under the provisions of the Reserves Act. This report proposes steps to realise that intention.

Does the management plan need to be reviewed?

- 14 It appears that the driver for the 2011 resolution proposing the review of the management plan was the desire to formalise the Kapiti Radio Yacht Club use of the ponds. Now that the club does not see the ponds as its long term home, the driver for change has gone.
- 15 While there is some ambiguity in the wording of the management plan, particularly in relation to the undefined term "passive recreation", an objective analysis of the whole plan indicates that the intention was that the ponds area would be managed as a wetlands area with waterfowl viewing opportunities and the balance of the reserve would be managed for (passive) recreational activities such as walking, picnicking and play. With the exception of the model yacht activity, Pharazyn Reserve seems to be currently used as the management plan intended.
- 16 Unless the Community Board now has a wish for Pharazyn Reserve to be developed and used in a different way to that expressed in the first sentence in paragraph 15, the management plan does not need anything other than a minor review. Such a review would update or correct references that are no longer accurate, update timeline information to reflect the 12 years since the plan was adopted, and could address some of the wording ambiguity. A minor review of this nature would not require extensive public consultation.

- 17 If it was proposed to undertake a more fundamental review of the future use and development of Pharazyn Reserve, an extensive public consultation process would be required. In this instance it would be recommended that the Reserves Act process be followed despite the status of the land as this would now be the community expectation. A fundamental review of the management plan could not be resourced before 2018/19.

Future use by the Kapiti Radio Yacht Club

- 18 As previously noted in the report, the Kapiti Radio Yacht Club is now unable to sail the larger of their two classes of yachts at Pharazyn Reserve due to natural weed growth in the ponds. At the present time the smaller class of yacht can be sailed there but the weed growth may also prevent that over time. The Club is seeking a new venue where it can accommodate both classes and enable them to conduct major regattas.
- 19 In view of the inconsistency of the model yachting use of the ponds with the Pharazyn Reserve Management Plan and the fact that the Club now intends to leave the venue, it is proposed that a reasonable but finite time limit be placed on the club to achieve this.

CONSIDERATIONS

Policy considerations

- 20 This report is informed by:

- Waikanae Wastewater Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan (2002)
- The Pharazyn Reserve Management Plan (2005)

Legal considerations

- 21 The current Pharazyn Reserve Management Plan was adopted in 2005 under the provisions of Section 41 of the Reserves Act. While there was no legal requirement to adopt the plan using those provisions, having done so there would now likely be a community expectation that a similar process would be followed in the future.

Financial considerations

- 22 A minor review of the management plan could be carried out within existing budgets. A significant review would require a specific budget allocation which is estimated to be \$25,000.

Tāngata whenua considerations

- 23 Any review of the reserve management plan would involve consultation with Iwi.

SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

Degree of significance

- 24 This matter has a low level of significance under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

Consultation already undertaken

25 No consultation has been undertaken in relation to this matter.

Engagement planning

26 No community engagement is currently planned or necessary. This would change if a significant review of the management plan was proposed.

Publicity

27 No publicity is currently proposed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

28 That the Waikanae Community Board recommends to the Council that:

28..1 That all of the parcels of land contained within Pharazyn Reserve be declared to be reserve and classified under the provisions of the Reserves Act;

28..2 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;

28..3 That the Kapiti Radio Yacht Club be advised that its use of the Pharazyn Reserve ponds must cease by 31 March 2018.

Report prepared by

**Approved for
submission**

**Approved for
submission**

Alison Law

Sean Mallon

Crispin Mylne

**Parks and Recreation
Manager**

**Group Manager
Infrastructure Services**

**Acting Group Manager
Community Services**

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 1 Pharazyn Reserve Management plan

Appendix 2 Letter from Pharazyn Reserve Focus Group

Pharazyn Reserve

Management Plan

August 2005

Prepared for Kapiti Coast District Council
By Boffa Miskell Ltd

Preface

Kapiti Coast District Council (KCDC) is pleased to issue the Pharazyn Reserve Management Plan 2005. The Plan has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977.

Public Consultation

KCDC publicly notified its intention to prepare a management plan for Pharazyn Reserve in July /August 2004. Six submissions were received and considered in the preparation of the draft plan. The *Draft Pharazyn Reserve Management Plan* was notified for public comment in May 2005, and six submissions were received.

Acknowledgements

The Kapiti District Council wish to thank the members of the public and interested parties who have provided comments and suggestions through the submission process.

Mike Cardiff
Parks and Recreation Manager
Kapiti Coast District Council

Definitions

For the purposes of this document;

- Kapiti Coast District Council is referred to as 'the Council' or KCDC.

Contents

Public Consultation.....	2
Definitions.....	2
Contents	3
Introduction	4
Pharazyn Reserve Overview.....	4
Management Plan Purpose.....	4
Management Plan Format.....	4
Part 1	5
Background and Description	5
1.1 Relevant Statutory and Planning Framework	5
1.2 Location and Legal Description	7
1.3 Physical Environment	8
1.4 Current Management.....	11
1.5 Rehabilitation and Development.....	11
1.6 Interpretation and Education.....	12
Part 2.....	13
Development Plan.....	13
2.1 Development Objectives.....	13
2.2 Reconfiguration of Pond Edges	14
2.3 Access and Recreation.....	15
2.4 Planting.....	16
2.5 Health and Safety	18
2.6 Development Strategy and Staging	18
Part 3.....	20
Strategic Vision Management Objectives and Policies	20
3.1 Strategic Vision.....	20
3.2 Management Objectives and Policies.....	20
APPENDIX 1.....	26
Relevant District Plan Provisions.....	26
APPENDIX 2.....	27
Consultation.....	27

Introduction

Pharazyn Reserve Overview

The Management Plan has been prepared for the reserve to be known as the Pharazyn Reserve. See Figure 1

Pharazyn Reserve is made up of two areas:

- **Decommissioned Waikanae sewerage treatment plant** that includes:
 - the ponds
 - the modified dune area, (previously used as an irrigation disposal area).
- **Existing reserve**, on the dune land west of the decommissioned treatment plant, between the coast and Rutherford Drive/ Paetawa Road

For the purposes of clarity for this document, the development and management of the reserve is discussed in terms of three distinct areas that make up the reserve land. The three areas are:

- ***The ponds***
- ***Modified dune area***
- ***Dune reserve***

Management Plan Purpose

A management plan is a working document that sets out the objectives and policies for managing an area and how these will be achieved. As well as being a reference for consistent everyday management it sets out the strategy for on going development and planning. It is also a public statement that explains the governing principles and reasons for decisions to interested parties.

This Management Plan also incorporates a development plan that will guide the rehabilitation of the ponds and modified dune areas.

Management Plan Format

The management plan contains three parts;

Part 1 Background and Description

Describes the site, its past and intended development and the issues that need to be addressed by the objectives and policies in the Management Plan.

Part 2 Development Plan

Outlines the works and actions required to implement the rehabilitation of the ponds and modified dune area and their transformation into an area for wildlife habitat and public recreation.

Part 3 Management objectives and policies

Sets out the long and short-term objectives for the management of the area, and the policies identify how the objectives will be achieved.

Part 1

Background and Description

1.1 Relevant Statutory and Planning Framework

Reserves Act (1977)

Section 41 of the Act requires that a management plan be prepared by the administering body for each reserve under its control. A management plan should provide guidance to the Council that ensure the reserve is used managed, maintained and developed for the purpose for which the reserve is classified.

The land to be included in the Pharazyn reserve is currently made up of four titles, all of which are classified as Local Purpose Reserve, but with differing purposes. See Figure 2.

	Reserve Status
The Ponds	Local Purpose (sewerage treatment purposes)
Modified dune area (2 titles)	Local Purpose (disposal purposes)
Dune land reserve	Local Purpose (passive recreation)

The Council will seek to change the specified purpose for the three titles that comprise the pond and modified dune areas, to reflect the changed use, (from sewerage treatment to recreation and wildlife habitat).

New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement

The policies in the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS) relate to the coastal environment of New Zealand. The Pharazyn Reserve lies within the coastal environment. The NZCPS states that *the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment including protection from inappropriate subdivision, use and development is a national priority.*

Regional Policy Statement

The policy statement for the Wellington Region does not identify the Pharazyn Reserve area as either a nationally or regionally significant landscape, landform of ecological significance.

Kapiti Coast District Plan

The existing coastal reserve is zoned Open Space and the wastewater Treatment land is zoned Rural (designation D1109) in the District Plan.

All of the land lies within the Outstanding Landscape overlay that runs the length of the Kapiti Coast.

Te Harakiki Swamp (E66, designated as an ecological site of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous flora) adjoins the site on the north and south boundaries.

Relevant District Plan provisions are noted in Appendix 1

Waikanae Wastewater Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan

The development strategies, management objectives and policies outlined in the Draft Management Plan, reflect the proposals/concepts adopted by KCDC as per the *Waikanae Wastewater Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan*¹.

KCDC commissioned the *Waikanae Wastewater Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan* in compliance with a resource consent condition,² prior to decommissioning of the wastewater ponds. The Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan, investigated the necessary works required to comply with consent conditions and evaluated the future use of the land and its rehabilitation.

Preparation of the plan involved ongoing consultation with stakeholder groups (Stakeholders listed in Appendix 2). The decommissioning and rehabilitation proposals put forward in the plan were accepted and endorsed by the stakeholders and Council in February 2002, and the sewerage treatment ponds ceased operation in March 2002.

The plan proposes that treatment ponds and adjoining land be rehabilitated as a public reserve that

- Provides wetland and open water habitat for wildlife, in particular waterfowl.
- Provides opportunities for the public enjoy the proposed wetland environment waterfowl that it will attract.
- Is suitable for passive recreational uses.

The two components addressed in the plan; are decommissioning and rehabilitation.

1. **Decommissioning** involves the initial phases and ongoing management of the physical and technical issues, associated with the existing infrastructure, health risks, pond sludge quality, soil contamination, hydrology and odours. The decommissioning included a two year plus, stand-down period, primarily to minimise potential public health risk issues. The initial two year has now passed. However the area is currently not suitable or available for public use and will be reviewed on an annual basis over the next three-five years.
2. **Rehabilitation** considers the future use and management of the area and outlines the physical development works necessary to transform the site into an attractive and safe public reserve.

Key Development Concepts

The key development concepts of *Waikanae Wastewater Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan* are listed below. The Management Plan is consistent with the concepts.

¹ 2000, Commissioned by KCDC and prepared by Boffa Miskell Ltd and Duffill Watts & Tse Ltd

² Greater Wellington Regional Council resource consent condition on the permit holder of the treatment facility.

- *Integrate the site as far as possible with the surrounding wetland landscape.*
- *Manage the area as part of the regionally significant wetlands that adjoin the site to the north and south.*
- *Reconfigure the shape of the ponds via a staged removal of bunds and 'soften' the straight edges of the ponds.*
- *Rehabilitate the edges of the treatment ponds to create a wetland buffer and habitat.*
- *Create open water habitat that would attract wildlife.*
- *Integrate the site with the adjoining dune land coastal reserve.*
- *Develop infrastructure for public recreation, access and use, including amenity planting, car parks walkways and signage.*
- *Allow for a future east-west link road between Ngarara Road and Rutherford Road.*
- *Provide space for sewerage overflow retention within the site (9000m3 for storm events).*
- *Monitor and manage external ongoing of decommissioning.*

1.2 Location and Legal Description

The Reserve is located in the coastal environment between Peka Peka and Waikanae Beach. (See Figure 1) The recently formed Rutherford Drive/ Paetawa Road link road, that runs in a north/south direction bisects the reserve. The road divides the Reserve into 'coastal' and 'inland' areas. On the coast the Reserve provides a large open space of dune land that acts as a buffer between blocks of rural residential development to the north and south. Inland (east of the road (Rutherford Drive/Paetawa Road link) the ponds lie between two privately owned wetlands to the north and south.

Several lifestyle blocks bound the reserve on the eastern boundary. The total area of the reserve is about 41 Ha and is made up of four land parcels. A 50m wide strip of esplanade reserve adjoins the coastal edge of the Pharazyn reserve, and extends beyond the reserve north and south. This section of esplanade reserve will be managed as part of the Pharazyn Reserve.

See Figure 2

	Legal Description	Area Ha
The Ponds	Lot 4 DP 29919	15.1529
	Pt Lot 3 DP 20118	2.3069
Modified dune area	Lot 1 DP 20118	14.2146
Dune land reserve	Lot 2 DP 85459	9.1672
Esplanade reserve	Lot 4 DP85459	(8.2751)
TOTAL		*40.8416
* Total area does not include the Esplanade Reserve that adjoins Pharazyn Reserve		

1.3 Physical Environment

The Pharazyn Reserve is made up of several types of landform, extending from the coast to the foot of an old coastal terrace. The reserve includes fore dunes, back dunes, a small backswamp (former stream watercourse), older dunes (planted with pine trees), the modified dune area and the open water of the ponds.

Site History

The Kapiti Coast has a rich history of Maori occupation. The coastline provided an important route up and down the coast and numerous settlements and pa were established near the sea, river mouths and streams near the plentiful fishing resource of the area. Wakahuia Carkeek's Book *The Kapiti Coast*³ identifies a fishing Pa named Kukutauaki Pa in the vicinity of the Kukutauki Stream⁴. The former watercourse of the Kukutauki stream lies at the inland edge of the fore dunes within the reserve (see Figure 3). The location of the fishing Pa, which may also lie within the reserve, has not been identified to date and an archaeological survey has not been carried out as part of the preparation of this management plan.

Prior to construction of the ponds in the early 1970's, the site was part of the Te Harakeke wetlands⁵ that extended from the Waikanae Beach area to Peka Peka. The excavation of the ponds bisected the wetland, creating two separate smaller northern and southern wetlands. A drain, (the Black Drain) was constructed around the east side of the treatment ponds to connect the northern and southern wetlands. Queen Elizabeth II National Trust covenants are in place on both of the remaining wetlands. Part of the northern wetland was gifted to the Trust as a result of a land subdivision, and a resource consent condition provides for access across the wastewater treatment plant site for management of the Trust's land.

Two oxidation ponds were excavated with a combined area of 12.3ha. Bunds between and around the edge of the ponds formed from clean sand. The dunes to the west of the ponds were levelled and used as the land disposal spray irrigation area (modified dune area).

Landform and climate

The mild coastal climate is dominated by the predominating west-northwest wind that often reaches gale force. The pine trees planted on the dunes to the west of the ponds provide good shelter to the inland area.

The persistent wind has a major effect on the physical shape and ecology of the coastal environment. A dynamic sand dune system is the basis of the landform, with the prevailing wind forming an extensive network of sand dunes aligned parallel to the beach.

The dune system once extended into the area where the ponds are now situated. Pre 1970 aerial photography shows the area as coastal dunes and

³WW.Carkeek the Kapiti Coast: *Maori tribal history and place names of the Paekakariki-Otaki District*. 1967. Reed publishing.

⁴Map 4 p231

⁵Also referred to as Te Hararakiki Wetlands, Doc Foxton Ecological District

wetlands with open water⁶. Extensive modification during pond construction has left no evidence of the existing landforms, and the land adjacent to the ponds is generally flat with localised undulations.

The dune landforms and backswamp (raupo wetland) in an interdunal hollow are, however, relatively unmodified and the coastal part of the reserve has high natural character and is identified in the district plan as being part of an Outstanding Landscape.

Te Harakeke Wetland

Te Harakeke wetland, although now bisected by the treatment ponds, is a regionally significant ecosystem. The wetland is identified by the Department of Conservation (DoC), as Recommended Area for Protection (RAP), within the Foxton Ecological District 7 and Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) have classified the area as a Key Native Ecosystem (KNE). KCDC have identified the wetland as Heritage site Ecological E66 in the District Plan.

The rehabilitation of the treatment ponds and their reintegration with Te Harakeke Wetland would assist the long-term viability of this significant ecosystem.

Site features/structures

The dune and reserve has some modifications and facilities that enhance public use of the area for recreation. However the ponds and modified dune areas have up till now not been part of the public domain and the only structures in this part of the reserve relate to its previous use as treatment ponds.

The dune land reserve area is crossed by two compacted gravel paths, one runs north-south (parallel to the road and coast, and is a part of the wider coastal walkway system. Another path provides access from the coastal walkway to the beach. The paths through the dune land are well used by pedestrians, as well as for cycle and horse riding. With the exception of route markers in the dune area there are no other structures.

Roadside car parking is provided at the northern and southern boundaries of the dune reserve area. A direct pedestrian connection between the coastal walkway, and the southern car park needs to be constructed to avoid pedestrians having to walk down the road to access the walkway.

The Rutherford Drive/Paetawa Road link road crosses the reserve and there is one formed vehicle entrance into modified dune and pond area. A security fence along the east side of the road currently excludes the public access to the pond and modified dune areas. The fence will remain in place until the Council is satisfied that public health and safety is not a risk and the initial development works have been initiated. This is expected to be in about five years.

⁶ Fig 10 Waikanae Wastewater Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan 2000,

⁷RAP 7

Most of the structures that were part of the treatment system in the pond and modified dune area will be, or have been, removed with the exception of the pumping station beside the south pond.

Redundant structures to be removed include floating baffles, inlet/outlet boardwalks and the above ground spray irrigation sprinklers, in the modified dune area. The pumping station continues operation, receiving wastewater from Waikanae east, via a gravity-fed main, pumping it directly to the upgraded Paraparaumu Wastewater Treatment Plant. In order to provide for situations where the pumps cannot handle the volumes as a result of a major storm event, space for short-term overflow storage is provided near the pumping station. An earth retention pond and bund, either side of the entrance road off Rutherford Drive, could provide 9000m³ of overflow storage. This storage would be for limited periods only (ie for hours, or at the most several days). The two ponds vary in depth, up to 2.4m, and have concrete wave bands around their perimeter.

Two Kapuni gas pipelines run in a north-south direction through the modified dune area just west of the ponds. Natural Gas Corporation (NGC) operated the pipelines, and would need to assess any earthworks proposed in the vicinity of the pipes, to ensure the protection of the underground infrastructure.

Trees and Vegetation

Vegetation on the dunes is a mixture of low growing native coastal species pest plants and the occasional wind-shorn tree such as kanuka, mahoe and coprosma. Native species include spinifex, muehlenbeckia, raupo and bracken. However exotic species and pest plants predominate, and include marram grass, boxthorn, blackberry, lupin, rank grass, brush wattle and wilding pines. The stand of semi mature pines, established on the dunes between the dune land and disposal area are a dominant feature of both dune and coastal areas. Currently, the trees visually and physically separate the areas.

Stands of semi mature and mature pine, macrocarpa and eucalyptus encircle the treatment pond area, providing shelter and visual enclosure. The land adjacent to the ponds is maintained as mown grass.

The Black Drain, at the eastern boundary, has permanent open water and supports a predominantly raupo, emergent vegetation. Two areas of Manchurian rice grass⁸ are established in the black drain.

Pest Plants

Manchurian rice grass in the black drain, is being controlled by Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC), who plan to have it eradicated in about five years. GWRC require that the soil in the vicinity of the Manchurian rice grass is not disturbed until it has been totally eradicated.

Other pest plants include blackberry, boxthorn, and willow. Blackberry occurs throughout the dune land area and is particularly invasive in the damp margins of the inter-dunal wetland. Blackberry on the grassed modified dune

⁸ *Zizania latifolia*, listed as an eradication plant pest by GWRC

land is being controlled by mowing. Boxthorn is a predominant pest in the dune land area, as it is in many coastal parts of the district. Council's current policy is to control rather than eradicate the boxthorn.

Exotic tree species such as pine and brush wattle establishing in the dune land are a potential pest plant and will need to be monitored and controlled.

Control of the more invasive pest plant species will be an important aspect of the restoration planting around the ponds.

Wildlife

The open water of the ponds and the black drain attract a variety of indigenous and exotic waterfowl. The species recorded⁹ on and around the ponds include:

- Black swan
- Canada geese
- Cape Barren goose
- Paradise shelduck
- Mallard
- Grey duck
- New Zealand shoveler
- Grey teal
- New Zealand scaup
- New Zealand dabchick
- Pukeko
- Black shag
- Pied stilt
- White faced heron
- Black backed gull
- New Zealand harrier

The Council (in conjunction with Fish and Game) is currently addressing a problem with feral geese cross breeding with Canadian geese in the pond area. A programme to cull the feral geese has been planned in consultation with the adjoining property owners. The council do not envisage that this will be an on going issue.

Rabbits are evident throughout the reserve.

1.4 Current Management

KCDC administers the existing reserve as part its Parks operation and maintains the pond and modified dune area land.

1.5 Rehabilitation and Development

KCDC will carry out the initial rehabilitation of the wastewater pond area and development of the reserve. Physical works and planting will be concentrated in and around the pond area with the coastal reserve not requiring major development.

⁹ List supplied by Fish and Game, and is an indicative list of species that visit the ponds, and is not representative.

1.6 *Interpretation and Education*

Establishment of a regional wetland education and information centre in the reserve has been suggested through the submission process. KCDC supports the concept in principle, as a possibility in the long term. However, such a proposal would need to be considered (in terms of strategic fit, demand, and finance) as a development separate to current development plan for the reserve. In the short to medium term the rehabilitation of the ponds is focused on reducing any risk to public health (water and sediment quality) while enhancing the ecological quality of the ponds and wider wetland area.

KCDC recognises the opportunity to promote improved understanding and appreciation of the natural and ecological values of the reserve. This imperative is included in both the strategic vision of the Management Plan and also the development plan for the reserve, where provision has been made for public access, bird viewing hides and interpretation panels.

Part 2

Development Plan

The Development Plan details the works required to rehabilitate the ponds as a wildlife habitat area and the adjoining modified dune, and coastal dune area as a reserve for public enjoyment.

2.1 — *Development Objectives*

The development plan includes initiatives and actions for all parts of the reserve. However, the majority of proposed development relates to the rehabilitation of the ponds, and establishment of wetland and riparian plantings. Development, including provision of facilities for passive recreation and interpretation and planting are planned for the modified dune area, with minor development works proposed for coastal dune reserve area.

Figure 3 shows the development and rehabilitation planned for the reserve over the next 10-15 years.

The long-term intention is to reintegrate the ponds with the adjoining Te Harakeke wetlands. However, the physical connection between the ponds and wetlands will be deferred until there is no risk of the pond sludge having an adverse effect on the wetlands down stream. It will also be dependent on a workable hydrological design between the ponds and adjacent wetlands. Eventually all of the pond edges will be modified, if required, to provide convoluted graded banks suitable for emergent vegetation¹⁰, but in the short to medium term works will be focused on the westward parts of the ponds.

The development process is planned in three stages, of five years, over a 15 year period. The development objectives for the three areas within the reserve are:

Ponds

The treatment ponds will be rehabilitated and will retain areas of open water with a planted wetland buffer. The rehabilitation works will visually and ecologically integrate the pond and disposal areas with the surrounding wetland/coastal environment. While the ponds will primarily provide open water and habitat for waterfowl, opportunities for public recreation such as viewing hides along the western margin are planned. The only public access to the ponds will be along the western edge. A broad buffer of raupo to be established along the pond edges will restrict access to the open water.

¹⁰ Figure 6 in *Waikanae Wastewater Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan 2000*, shows the long term intent for the pond edges.

Modified Dune Area

The land disposal area will be developed as a public open space including car parking, gravel walkways, toilets, signage and groves of native vegetation to provide shelter and shade. A new pedestrian link will provide access from this area west to the dune land.

Once new native shelter vegetation has established, a staged removal of the semi mature pine trees to the west will allow views to Kapiti Island and the dune land, from the eastern part of the reserve.

Dunelend Reserve

The coastal reserve is relatively unmodified and no significant development is planned. The main focus in this area will be the protection and enhancement of the open space and natural character of the coastal dune land and the control of pest plants.

2.2 Reconfiguration of Pond Edges

The straight concrete edges of the ponds will be reconfigured to create more 'natural' sinuous edges, to provide suitable growing conditions for raupo to establish. The vegetated buffer will provide wildlife habitat, discourage public access and act as a seed source for the remainder of the ponds.

The western edges of both ponds and bund dividing the ponds will be reconfigured, and sections of the central bund will be broken out to connect the two ponds. The remaining edges of the ponds will stay in place as a bund to separate the pond water and sludge from the black drain and surrounding wetlands. This may be reviewed, if and when there is no risk of contamination from the sludge and if a workable hydrological regime is possible.

The concrete wave barrier will be broken into small sections and pushed into the ponds and placed near the edge, to provide a foundation for the convoluted edge, and to moderate wave action on the freshly exposed edge.

It is anticipated that the fill will be sourced from local Council excavations/works. The fill must be clean and suitable for the purpose in particular not contaminated with water tolerant pest plants.

The fill will be placed into the water at the edge of the pond, and should be graded into the water over and around the concrete pieces, to provide a gently sloping 'beach' that will protect the edge from erosion and provide suitable substrate to establish raupo (in the first instance). The profile of the modified edges should be consistent with the *Draft Design Guidelines for Artificial Ponds*¹¹

Modification of the pond edge will be carried out in a sequential manner with timing depending on the availability of suitable fill. Work will begin on the shallower south pond, then the north pond, and finally the central bund.

¹¹ 2005, *Draft Design Guidelines for Artificial Ponds*. GWRC
Due to be published August 2005

Sand/soil fill from off-site will stockpiled in the short term along the west edge of the ponds until required.

The concrete wave band will only be broken out when there is enough fill to replace it (to avoid the risk of erosion of the exposed edge material).

KCDC will need to consult with Natural Gas Corporation regarding the proposed works in the vicinity of the pipelines, particularly in regard to heavy machinery/trucks crossing the pipeline and earthworks.

2.3 *Access and Recreation*

Vehicle access and car parks

A new vehicle entrance off the extension of Rutherford Drive will provide access to the southern end of the wastewater treatment area.

A car park located on the elevated area north west of the pumping station will provide some parks that offer outlooks toward the ponds.

A future road to provide an east-west link between Ngarara Road and Rutherford Drive is shown on the plan.

Bollards and vegetation assist in restricting vehicle access to only the access road and parking areas. However there would need to be provision to allow KCDC service vehicles to access other parts of the reserve.

Walking Paths and Pedestrian Links and Boardwalks

The security fence that currently restricts access to the pond and modified dune areas will remain in place until the western edges of the ponds have been rehabilitated and the raupo is established. This is likely to take up to five years.

Compacted gravel walkways will be constructed to provide walking routes through the modified dune area and along the western edge of the ponds.

Dense buffer planting around the margin of the ponds will restrict public access to the water, and security fences will prohibit public access around the other margins of the ponds. It is proposed that short boardwalks will extend from the land through the vegetation to the bird viewing hides.

A new pathway will connect the ponds with the dune area, crossing Rutherford Drive and via boardwalk over the small raupo wetland.

No other new paths are planned in the dune reserve area.

Interpretation and signage

A site wide signage strategy is will be developed that defines the location and content of the information and interpretation signs throughout the reserve. This would include one main information board/shelter in a central location.

Interpretation signage providing information on the geology, natural landforms, dune dynamics and ecology, would promote an enhanced understanding and enjoyment of the coastal and wetland environments.

Information about the site's history, including the construction and decommissioning of the ponds would also assist public appreciation of the reserve.

Way finding signage to assist navigation within and beyond the site would be planned to integrate with the existing signage of the locality.

Additional KCDC signage advising;

- Public safety issues relating to the ponds and surrounding land.
- Operational detail in particular overflow storage areas.
- KCDC bylaws such as dogs, horses.

Facilities and Site furniture

A new toilet facility will be necessary once the pond and modified dune areas are open to the public. The toilets would be discreetly located in the vicinity of the car park, near the pumping station.

The modified dune area will be retained as a predominantly grassed open space with groves of native vegetation planted to provide shade and shelter. This area will be suitable for passive recreational use, such as walking, informal recreation and picnics.

Recreational site furniture would include, bench seating at strategic points, picnic tables, barbeques and rubbish bins.

A central information point in the form of information panels with a roof structure would be located in the vicinity of the car park near the ponds.

Lighting will not be provided.

2.4 Planting

Pond buffer planting

Establishment of a dense buffer of vegetation in the shallow water of the pond margins will be a priority, once the fill is in place, or pond water levels are reduced. The western pond margins will be seeded with locally sourced raupo distributed by hand along the margins. The seeding method is considered to be the most effective way to establish a large area of raupo.¹²

¹² Pers Comm Tim Park, KCDC officer.

Raupo is a voracious coloniser, and will quickly establish and spread to form a dense vegetative edge.

Other native species associated with wetland margins will be established on the landward edges of the pond to provide a diverse mix of species. These will include manuka, flax, cabbage tree and ngaio.

Additional planting in and around the pond edges should be designed to provide habitat diversity, such as bird roosting and nesting sites.

It is anticipated that once introduced into the western edge of the ponds raupo will colonise naturally in other parts of the ponds wherever conditions are suitable. Ideally approximately 50% of the total pond area should be maintained as open water to provide bird feeding and fish habitat.

Recreational shelter and shade planting

The existing grassed area of the modified dune area will generally be left as an open grassed space with groves of coastal native trees to provide, wind shelter and shade. The vegetation will be used to create a partial visual buffer between the area and the road. The vegetation will enhance the natural character of the modified dune and pond area, by visually screening the road from the recreational area and moderating the traffic noise.

Planting locally sourced native species will enhance the biodiversity of the locality and will attract a wider range of birds to the reserve.

Scattered groves of trees will provide a vertical element that breaks down the single open space into a series of smaller areas. This layout would add visual and recreational interest.

Suggested native species to provide shade and shelter:

- Karaka
- Ngaio
- Cabbage Tree
- Manuka
- Kanuka
- Kohekohe
- Kahikatea

Additional planting of native species at the walkway entrances to the dune area, (from the two car parks) would enhance and visually define the entrance points

Structural Planting

In addition to planting that would enhance recreational use, carefully designed planting would also assist structures such as the toilet block and car park to be integrated into the site.

Replacement of pine trees

Sections of the western stand of pine trees will be progressively removed to provide views to Kapiti Island and the dune land, from the inland parts of the reserve. The pines will be removed in small groups and native vegetation, appropriate to the site, established in their place.

2.5 Health and Safety

The security fence that ring fences the pond and modified dune area will remain in place to exclude public access until the Council are satisfied that any health and safety risks are acceptable.

2.6 Development Strategy and Staging

The development will be staged over about 15 years and has been divided into three stages of five years each. (see Figure 3)

Pest plant control, although not development as such, is essential for the development of the reserve and has been included in the table below.

	Development Activity	Stage 1 year 0-5	Stage 2 year 5-10	Stage 3 year 10-15
		2005-2010	2010-2015	2015-2020
PONDS				
	Rehabilitate and seed south pond edge			
	Rehabilitate and seed north pond edge			
	Break-out, rehabilitate and seed central bund			
	Security fence to restrict access around ponds			
	Construct bird viewing hides			
	Weed control, (manchurian wild rice)			
MODIFIED DUNE AREA				
	Establish native shelter trees			
	Plant native buffer along pond edge			
	Plant native buffer and groves of amenity trees			
	Construct access road and car park			
	Construct toilet block			
	Construct information/shelter near main carpark.			
	Construct walkway and boardwalk link to dune-land area			
	Remove security fence between dune reserve and pine trees			
	Remove sections of pine trees, replant with native vegetation, to provide views to west.			
	Site furniture, picnic tables, barbeques			
	Weed control and mow grass areas			
DUNELAND RESERVE AREA				
	Construct pedestrian entrance at Rutherford drive car park			

	Enhancement planting at entrance points			
	Bench seats			
	Weed control, boxthorn, blackberry, exotic tree seedlings			
SITE WIDE				
	Develop and implement interpretation/signage strategy.			
	Rubbish bins			
	Bench seats, sand ladders if required			

Part 3

Strategic Vision Management Objectives and Policies

The strategic vision is the over-arching purpose of the Management Plan. It is a statement of intent for the Reserve and serves as the reference point for the development plan and the objectives and policies in the Management Plan

The management objectives and policies define how the reserve will be managed in the short and long term.

3.1 Strategic Vision

The Strategic Vision for the Pharazyn Reserve is:

Pharazyn Reserve will be developed and managed to provide opportunities for passive recreation and learning about the natural environment, while protecting and enhancing site's coastal and wetland values.

3.2 Management Objectives and Policies

3.2.1 Administration and Management

The Pharazyn Reserve is administered by the Parks and Recreation Department, of the Kapiti Coast District Council, under the direction of the Parks and Recreation Manager. Administration includes day to day management, budget planning and long-term development planning. Specialist advice or service may be sought for specific management issues such as tree maintenance.

Policies

- i) The reserve shall be managed by the Parks and Recreation Department of the Kapiti Coast District Council, in accordance with the appropriate classifications of reserve land
- ii) The Management Plan shall be reviewed regularly and amended where necessary in accordance with the requirements of the Reserves Act (1977)
- iii) The Council shall support the establishment and activities of one community group whose purpose is advocacy, for and development of the reserve, as a wildlife and passive recreational space.

3.2.2 Landscape character

The Pharazyn Reserve has two distinct areas of landscape character that are physically and visually separated by a stand of semi mature pine trees and a public road.

1. The coastal dune land area is bounded by the Tasman Sea and link road (Rutherford/Paetawa Road), with expansive views to Kapiti Island. The dune landform is largely unmodified and includes small raupo back-

swamp. Although the vegetation is mainly exotic species and pest plants the area retains a strong natural character.

2. The landforms of the inland part of the reserve are highly modified as a result of the treatment pond construction. Apart from the stands of pine trees on the perimeter, the area is devoid of significant vegetation, and this contrasts strongly with the adjacent densely vegetated wetlands.

The Reserve is located in the coastal environment on the outskirts of a rapidly expanding urban area. As residential development intensifies in the area the reserve will become more and more important as a recreational open space. Implementation of the Development Plan will greatly enhance the natural and amenity values of the old sewerage treatment areas and will also reconnect the coastal and inland areas.

Policies

- i) The landscape character and natural values of the Reserve shall be protected, maintained and enhanced.
- ii) There shall be no earthworks or built structures in the dune area west of the road, with the exception of signage, rubbish bins, boardwalks and bench seats.
- iii) The Council shall promote the protection of the dune environment and landforms from inappropriate use through public education, monitoring and action.
- iv) Mountain bikers and horse riders must stay on the formed gravel pathways in the dune area, and pedestrians shall be encouraged to use the formed tracks.
- v) New pathways shall only be constructed through the dunes area where there is a clear need, and where a formed path would protect the dune landforms from pedestrian traffic.

3.2.3 Ecological values and wildlife

The Reserve is a small part of the coastal dune land strip that runs the length of the Kapiti Coast, and has particular value in that it runs inland, connecting the coastal edge with the inland wetland systems. The rehabilitation of the ponds into a wetland/open water system will greatly improve the ecological value of the area, and will go some way to re-establish the wetlands that were lost when the ponds were constructed. Improved habitat in the form of wide buffer planting of raupo will encourage additional species of waterfowl to visit and breed in and around the ponds. Establishment of areas of native vegetation as part of the development plan will also enhance the ecological integrity of the reserve and the whole wetland complex.

Control of pest plants and animals will be an important part of enhancing the ecological integrity of the ponds and reserve. This includes exotic plants, fish and animals.

Recent problems with feral geese in the reserve are not expected to be ongoing, however, there may be times when control of wildlife is required to control numbers of undesirable populations.

Policies

- i) The rehabilitation works including planting shall be carried out in accordance with the Development Plan.
- ii) The ponds shall be rehabilitated and managed to create waterfowl habitat and shall not be used for recreational water activities such as swimming, fishing or boating.
- iii) There shall be no public access into the wetland margins, or open water apart from purpose built boardwalks to authorised bird viewing hides.
- iv) All vegetation planted in the reserve shall be locally sourced native species.
- v) No exotic vegetation shall be planted in the Reserve.
- vi) No exotic fish species shall be introduced into the ponds.
- vii) Measures to control nuisance wild fowl populations may be planned and undertaken, in consultation and with agreement from, all relevant parties, authorities and neighbours.

3.2.4 Vegetation Management

The pine trees that separate the coastal and inland parts of the site provide shelter to the to the inland area from the prevailing winds, however they also block views to Kapiti Island and the coastal dune area. Progressive replacement of sections of pine trees with native vegetation will create view shafts would help to unify the two parts of the reserve.

Weeds and exotic species are a continual threat to the natural character of the dune environment, Although boxthorn is a major pest species, other weeds such as blackberry, pine and brush wattle are also a threat. The Council policy for boxthorn is control rather than eradication. Weeds such as blackberry, pine and brush wattle need continual monitoring and control. The manchurian wild rice grass in the black drain is being eradicated by GWRC.

Policies

- i) The Council shall maintain the pine and other large trees, to minimise risks to the public of falling trees or branches.
- ii) Existing pine trees shall only be removed as part of a planned progressive replacement strategy, to provide views out from the inland area (unless they are considered dangerous)
- iii) Pest plant species shall be monitored and regularly controlled to protect the ecological and natural values of the Reserve.

3.2.5 Recreation and Access

Pharazyn Reserve is an area for passive recreational uses such as walking, picnicking and play. The pond area is being developed to encourage water fowl to visit the area and viewing hides will be provided to encourage bird watching with minimal disturbance to the birds. The existing pathways

through the dune land area are part of the wider local cycle, walkway and bridle way route system, along the coast and beyond.

Policies

- i) The Reserve shall only be used for passive recreational activity.
- ii) Fishing in the ponds is not permitted.
- iii) Horses and mountain bikes are permitted to use the formed gravel paths within the dune area.
- iv) No public access is allowed, beyond the security fences, to the north, east and south margins of the ponds.
- v) Motorised vehicles may only use the access road and car park, and are not permitted elsewhere in the Reserve.
- vi) Authorised service vehicles may access the modified dune and pond areas to carrying out Council operations.
- vii) Access through the reserve to the QEII National Trust property (north of the reserve), shall be permitted as appropriate to authorised QEII National Trust representatives.

3.2.6 Buildings structures and furniture

The only existing built facilities within the reserve relate to the sewerage pumping facility. The development plan describes the facilities that will be provided to enhance the use of the reserve for passive recreational activities, including site furniture, interpretation panels, toilet facilities, boardwalks and security fences.

The design and location of buildings, structures and site furniture can have a major positive or negative impact on the visual appeal of a reserve. As a general principle constructed features should be complementary to the open space qualities of the Reserve and this can be achieved by

- Design appropriate to the site and unified throughout;
- Locations chosen to reduce the visual impact or enhance the natural features.

A sheltered interpretation structure, near the main car park will be the main information point, with other information panels throughout the reserve. The interpretation and information panels will include information about the site's history, natural features, and ecology.

Site furniture such as bench seating, vehicle barriers, rubbish bins, although small in scale, need to be sensitively designed and located to avoid visual clutter of the reserve.

Picnic tables and barbeques should be located where they are most appropriate, in association with planted areas that provide shade and shelter, rather than in the middle of large open spaces.

Rubbish bins must be easily seen and placed where they will be used, but must of a scale and colour, so not to appear prominent within the Reserve.

With the addition of the sewerage pond area to the existing reserve the signage throughout the reserve will need to be reviewed. The entrance points need to be clearly identified and visitor information will be required at several points. The signage will need to include interpretation, way finding and site information.

Policies

- i) The Council shall provide built facilities to facilitate and enhance the use of the Reserve for passive recreational activities as described in the Development Plan.
- ii) Design and locations of the proposed bird-watch hides will be located and designed to ensure their use creates minimal, visual impact and disturbance to the wildfowl.
- iii) The Council shall provide site wide signage that specifies wayfinding and site information to the public.
- iv) Signs shall be of a consistent style that is appropriate to the natural character of the site.

3.2.7 Maintenance and Pest Management

The public use and condition of the Reserve needs to be monitored and appropriate action taken to ensure

- The enjoyment and safety of visitors;
- Protection of the natural character, including landforms, vegetation and ecology.
- The provision of suitable habitat for wetland bird species, including areas of open water.

Approximately 50% of the total pond should be maintained as open water to provide feeding and breeding habitat for birds and fish. This may require removal of raupo or other emergent vegetation from time to time.

The council must undertake sound environmental management of the Reserve including the control of pest plants, invasive plants, pest animals and fish, skilled tree maintenance and planting techniques. Pest plants in the dune area would include wilding pine and other self-sown exotic tree species that could threaten the natural character of the dunes.

From time to time it may be necessary to restrict public access to the east part of the Reserve for public health and safety reasons. In the event that sewerage system requires use of the short-term overflow storage areas east of the road, this part of the reserve may be closed to public access for short periods.

Policies

- i) The Reserve shall be maintained regularly to a high standard and damage or environmental problems attended to quickly.
- ii) The council shall monitor and control pest plants, animals and fish on a regular basis.

- iii) The council shall implement vegetation control measures as required to maintain approximately 50% of the total pond area as open water.
- iv) Use of herbicide for vegetation control within and around the ponds must comply with GWRC list of approved herbicides for use in fresh water.
- v) All buildings and site furniture shall be maintained in a good state of repair.
- vi) The toilets shall be maintained to a high standard.
- vii) Rubbish bins shall be of adequate size and number, appropriate to the demand, and emptied in a timely manner as use dictates.

3.2.8 Controls and Prohibitions

Conflicts can occur in public Reserves when recreational activity or use is incompatible with the Reserve's objectives. The Council seeks to encourage use of the Reserve for passive recreation while also protecting and enhancing the natural qualities of the site. Controls and prohibitions seek to avoid management problems and conflicts between recreational use and the long-term integrity of the site's natural features.

Policies

- i) Activities that adversely affect the reserve, its landforms, vegetation, natural character or recreational values may be prohibited if incompatible with Reserve objectives and policies.
- ii) Horses, mountain bikes and motorised vehicles are prohibited from the dune area unless using the designated formed paths.
- iii) Motorised vehicles (**see 3.2.5 iv,v,vi**)
- iv) Dogs shall only be permitted in the reserve if kept strictly under control on a leash.

APPENDIX 1

Relevant District Plan Provisions

C.10 LANDSCAPE

Objective 1. That the district's outstanding landscapes are identified and protected from the adverse environmental effects of subdivision, use and development.

C.11.1 ECOLOGY OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

A. Natural Environment

Policy 8. Encourage planting of locally sourced indigenous species adjacent to water bodies and other areas that will restore linkages and ecological corridors.

Policy 9. Encourage restoration of degraded habitats with locally sourced (genetically appropriate) native vegetation.

Policy 10. Advocate for the protection of areas identified as suitable for providing linking corridors for fauna.

Policy 11. Maintain and enhance the natural landscape values of the district.

B. Tangata Whenua

Policy 1. Provide for Tangata Whenua input into the decision-making process, regarding proposals affecting policies and the natural resources of importance to Tangata Whenua.

Policy 3. Recognise and provide for Kaitiakitanga by Tangata Whenua in the management of the natural environment.

C.12 OPEN SPACES AND RESERVES

Objective 1. To identify, maintain and enhance the open space and recreation resources of the district to ensure that the present and future needs of the district for recreational opportunities and open areas are met without adverse effects on the physical values of the natural environment.

Policy 1. Recognise the open space amenity value of reserves and areas of significant scenic, ecological, scientific and national importance, including native trees, significant landforms and natural character.

Policy 2. Identify and ensure the development of a walking and cycleway system in co-operation with landowners and other agencies, linking areas of open space, ecological reserves, schools, commercial and community facilities, public transport and residential adjoining landowners.

Policy 3. Provide for a wide range of recreational activities while ensuring that adverse effects on the environment are avoided or mitigated.

Policy 6. Protect the open space value of both private and public land being used for open space and recreation.

APPENDIX 2

Consultation

Preparation of the Waikanae Wastewater Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan 2002

Groups consulted during the preparation of the Waikanae Wastewater Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan.

- Waikanae Community Board
- Community Wastewater Liaison Group
- Department of Conservation
- Greater Wellington Regional Council
- Te Runanga O Ati Awa Ki Whakaongatai
- Kapiti Environmental Action
- Guardians of the Waikanae Estuary
- Royal Forest and Bird Society- Kapiti Branch
- QEII National Trust

Preparation of the Draft Management Plan 2005

KCDC publicly notified its intention to prepare a management plan for The Pharazyn Reserve (decommissioned Waikanae sewerage ponds) in July /August 2004. Six submissions were received and considered in the preparation of the draft plan.

The following parties were consulted during the preparation of proposal and methods for the Development Plan (included in the Draft Management Plan)

Kapiti Coast District Council, council officers

Greater Wellington Regional Council

QEII National Trust

Department of Conservation

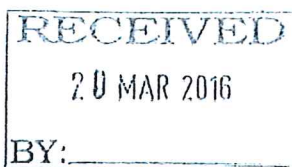
Duffell, Watts, Tse

Fish and Game

Preparation of the Pharazyn Reserve Management Plan 2005

The *Draft Pharazyn Reserve Management Plan* was notified for public comment in May 2005, and six submissions were received. Many comments from the submissions were considered and adopted into the final version of the plan.

Submitters who had requested to be heard met with KCDC on site at the reserve to discuss the submissions and changes made to the plan.



ATAAHUA

Mark Byers
67 Huia Street
Waikanae 5036

15 March 2017

Mayor K Gurunathan
Kapiti Coast District Council
175 Rimu Road
Paraparaumu 5032

Your Worship,

Compliance with Pharazyn Reserve Management Plan 2005

I am writing on behalf of the majority of the Pharazyn Reserve Focus Group (PRFG) including James Westbury. Our Chair Jocelyn Pryvanov has abstained from this submission on account of being Chair of the Waikanae Community Board.

We are seeking your support to ensure the Pharazyn Reserve is able to develop as envisaged in the Pharazyn Reserve Management Plan.

0

Passive Recreation

1. On 13 August 2009 officials agreed to the Kapiti Radio Yacht Club (KRYC) having access to the northern edge of the ponds at the Reserve to pursue their activity. A copy of the approval is attached as A.
2. On 17 March 2011 KRYC, rather than seeking an alternative venue, made a submission, copy attached as B, to have the Plan changed to permit their activity. Since around that time there has been a desultory process for review of the Plan with no conclusion reached. Our Group is not in favour of fundamental changes to the plan
3. Irrespective of the review, the 2005 Plan remains legally extant and we believe it should be complied with. In our view the decision to allow KRYC to use the northern edge of the Reserve ponds is wrong on the following counts.
 - their activity is incompatible with the "passive recreation" requirements of the Plan. Additional comments on the application and meaning of "passive recreation" can be found inter alia in attachment C
 - the plan is clear that "passive recreation" should only occur on the western side of the ponds with the other three sides developed to integrate with the surrounding wetland landscape. So even if KRYC met the "passive recreation" test they should be on the west side of the ponds.

- An independent ornithological specialist Richard Anderson has advised "the present level of activity on the northern pond is sufficient to displace birdlife and certainly prevent breeding"

Contouring the Northern Edge of the Ponds

4. Attachment D is minutes of a Council meeting of 29 August 2013 which notes "there is to be no more filling of the pond edges until the Pharazyn Reserve Management Plan has been reviewed."
5. A request under the Local Authority Information Act to discover the alleged decision that was noted has failed to disclose any such decision or related documentation. Indeed I was advised that Councillors were given incorrect information on the question of filling the pond edges and this was what they erroneously noted.
 - The delay caused by alleged decision to suspend any filling of the northern side of the ponds has only benefited the KRYC and disadvantaged the development of the Reserve by taking off the table any opportunity to obtain excess Expressway fill that may have been available.
 - The effects of the alleged decision are also incompatible with and ultra vires to the requirements of the current plan. Attachment E provides further explanation on why this is so.
6. The PRFG does not wish to miss out on further opportunities to access fill from the Pekapeka to Otaki Expressway and Transmission Gully. Moreover, at our meeting on 9 March 2017 it was agreed that for the immediate future all available funds, aside from those needed for existing commitments or essential work, would be dedicated to landscaping the northern edge of the ponds.
7. In terms of the original KCDC approval to KRYC, attachment A, the recent PRFG decision means they should be given notice to vacate the site and to remove their jetty. The KRYC has had 8 years to find an alternative site but, knowing the existing temporary approval was ultra vires the Plan, has chosen to lobby for changes to the plan to permit their activity. In our view, until - if at all - the Plan changes following public consultation the current requirements of the Plan should be legally observed.

Summary

8. The current situation is viewed as very unsatisfactory and thwarts the purpose of the Reserve as envisaged in the Plan. Specifically;
 - "passive recreation" should only occur on the western side of the ponds

- the activities of the KRYC are not "passive recreation" and are inimical to the envisaged development of the Reserve
- if it exists, the alleged decision to suspend contouring on the northern edges of the ponds is contrary to the Plan

9. The PRFG now wishes to proceed with contouring the northern edge of the ponds and requests your support:

- in proceeding with this and
- requiring officials to give 6 months' notice to the KRYC to cease activity at the Pharazyn Reserve.

We would be happy to discuss this personally with you if that would help.

Yours Truly



Mark Byers
on behalf of the Pharazyn Reserve Focus Group

ps. we will also be seeking the support of the Greater Wellington Regional Council, Department of Conservation, Forest and Bird and the Pharazyn Trust.

FILE: 6.11.58

13 August 2009

Chris Harmer, President
Kapiti Radio Yacht Club Incorporated
c/- PO Box 69
PARAPARAUMU

Dear Chris

USE OF PHARAZYN RESERVE PONDS

I tabled your proposal dated 1 July 2009 at the Pharazyn Reserve Management Group on 6 August 2009 for their consideration.

As conveyed to you earlier in a letter dated 26 February 2008 from Mike Cardiff, the use of the ponds by your club is at the pleasure of Council and subject to conditions.

The Management Group has asked me to respond to your proposal. As you may be aware, the reserve is covered by an adopted management plan which was produced involving community consultation. The plan outlines development and permitted uses of the reserve. In it, it states that passive recreation is allowed, but specifically bars the ponds from boating activities due to the impact on wildlife. Given this, the Management Group is prepared to allow your club to continue to use the northern pond until the surrounds in this area are modified and planted as per the landscape development plan. Unfortunately after this your club will have to vacate the site and remove your jetty. Any other structures, therefore that you have proposed, ie the storage container, cannot proceed.

I know your members will be disappointed with this decision, but I am prepared to work with you in trying to find another suitable long term site for your clubs use.

Yours sincerely

Lex Bartlett
LEISURE & OPEN SPACE ASSET MANAGER

DDI (04) 2964 847
Fax (04) 2964 646
Cell 027 5555 847
E-mail lex.bartlett@kapiticoast.govt.nz

Kapiti Radio Yacht Club Inc.
C/- 36 Rosewood Place
Paraparaumu

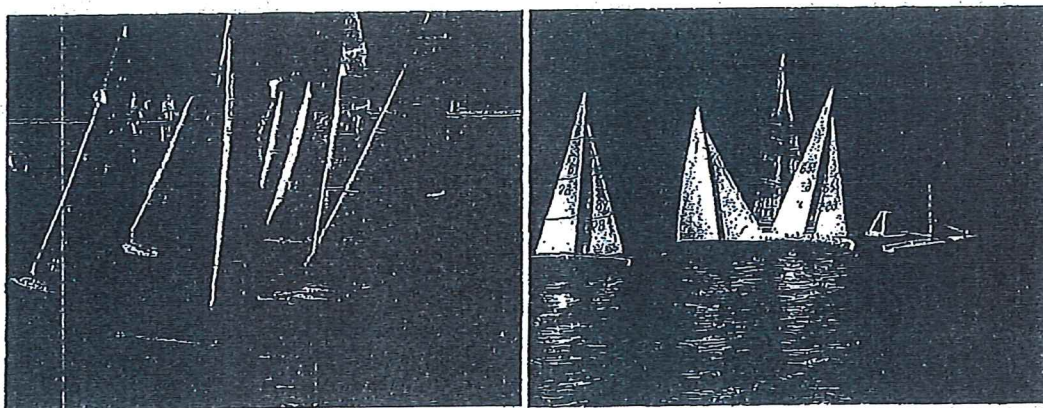


March 17 2011

Re: Pharazyn Reserve Management Plan – Request for review and amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Kapiti Radio Yacht Club Incorporated is a group of people who enjoy the sport of racing radio control yachts such as the EC12 and International One Metre (IOM) as pictured below.



Radio Control yachts are non powered craft other than the internal batteries for electrical supply to the rudder and sail servos and are almost silent in their operation. They do not create any disturbance to waterfowl on the ponds or surrounding areas. The yachts are no larger than 1.5m long and approximately 1.9m high.

The Kapiti Radio Yacht Club was officially formed in 2005 after having sailed in either Wellington or in an unofficial manner around the Kapiti Coast since approximately 2000.

Unfortunately the club was not in existence at the time of the original public consultation and formation of the Management Plan.

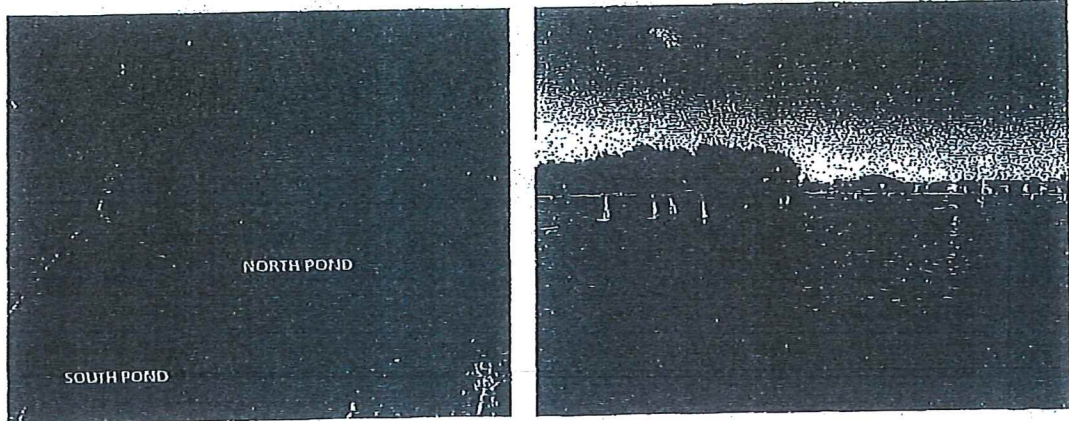
On the Kapiti Coast there are 3 venues that are of suitable size currently to sail the types of yachts as pictured above casually – Waimanu Lagoon, Awatea Lake and Pharazyn Reserve Ponds.

Waimanu Lagoon is unsuitable for the IOM as the weed there collects on the keel preventing the boat from sailing whereas Pharazyn Reserve is a weed free venue.

Awatea Lake is not large enough to hold formal inter-club and national regattas and has large areas of wind shadow not conducive to small yachts.

With agreement from the KDC Parks & Reserves the club has had access to the Pharazyn Reserve ponds from early 2006 after having hosted the 2005 National Championship Regatta for the EC12 on Waimanu Lagoon which proved to be barely large enough when 16 yachts were racing at once.

Please refer to Google Earth image below and view from south end of proposed concrete wall.



Looking towards the future should we gain this amendment and approved access to Pharazyn Reserve for this sport the Kapiti Radio Yacht Club Inc would then be in a position to host large regattas on a regular basis. These would include but not be limited to:

NZEC12 National Championships— usually 25 or so boats with 25-30 out of area people attending including partners— 3 day regatta with 4 nights local stay.

NZLIM National Championships— usually 40 or so boats with up to 50 or more out of area people attending including partners— 3-4 day regatta with 4-5 nights local stay.

2015 – New Zealand will again be the host of what is known as the Morgan Black International EC12 Regatta. This regatta is held 3 yearly starting from 2006 which was in Motueka and which 5 Kapiti members attended, 2009 was in Charleston South Carolina, USA which 2 Kapiti Members attended and 2012 is in Australia with 4 – 5 Kapiti Members expected to attend.

This regatta attracts approximately 35-40 boats with the 2006 event seeing 11 overseas entrants and partners attending with a total of 20 people from outside New Zealand.

The Kapiti Radio Yacht Club has already been approached about hosting this large regatta in 2015.

From discussions with the USA contingent attending Australia in 2012 they would also like to visit this venue and area to have a warm up regatta of 2-3 days prior to attending the Australia event in late 2012.

Having this venue for regular sailing will also help with the growth of the Kapiti Radio Club Inc. As most people who become involved in the sport do so after seeing boats in action. With visitors to the pond now able to access the area this exposure will no longer be behind locked gates restricted to the few who have been allowed to enter to date.

Nature Coast Enterprise say:

We support and encourage events in the region. "Major events help to address key issues such as seasonality. **They are the motivating factor to make people come now, rather than just having us on their shopping list"**

What we know:

- The Kapiti and Horowhenua regions are primarily domestic tourism destinations (kiwis)

- As a domestic tourism destination, we get around 1.6m visitors per year and they contribute around \$60m annually to our local GDP

What is important is that as a region, we give people a reason to come and of course, to stop and spend. Events are key to this.

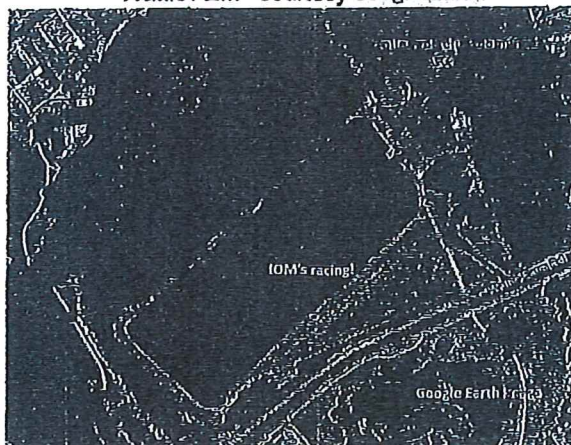
Chris Barber
Nature Coast Enterprise Chief Executive

FACILITIES

As part of the existing Management Plan it is noted that a new toilet facility will be necessary and located near the car park.

This is similar to a venue in Auckland at Wattle Farm, Manurewa, where another Radio Yacht Club is based on a pond that was previously of the same origins as Pharazyn. The Male and Female toilets are separated by the extra room occupied by the Northern Maritime Model Society Inc.

Wattle Farm –courtesy Google Earth.



As part of the toilet block construction an added section was included that is now their secure clubrooms and this could also be considered for future development here at Pharazyn Reserve should the Council grant access and amendments to the Management Plan.

SUMMARY:

At all times the Kapiti Radio Yacht Club has used the venue our members have ensured that at no time has any rubbish been left and we have on many occasions removed rubbish found.

When we have hosted previous EC12 National Championship regattas we have also brought in a port-a-loo and prepared the area we use by mowing the grass and maintaining the same area regularly along with the regular grounds servicing by KCDC staff.

The area used on the water when sailing is under 1/2 of the total surface area of approximately 52,000 square metres of pond which also ensures no waterfowl are disturbed as we keep well clear on the eastern boundaries. This area has also been seen by our members to have the least amount of wild life as it is also the most exposed to the prevailing winds and weather.

In 2008 and again in 2010 the club again hosted the EC12 National Championship Regatta –these times on Pharazyn Reserve. On both occasions' visitors from out of area commented that this was probably the best venue for radio control yachting in New Zealand due to the size of the ponds and the clear area surrounding the ponds allowing wind to flow without disturbance which is what powers the boats.

THE FUTURE:

As the ponds at Pharazyn Reserve are now nearing the end of the re-development to wetlands and are now open to public walkway access we are requesting that the Pharazyn Reserve Management Plan be reviewed to allow the Kapiti Radio Yacht Club Inc to continue using the facility and become an approved activity.

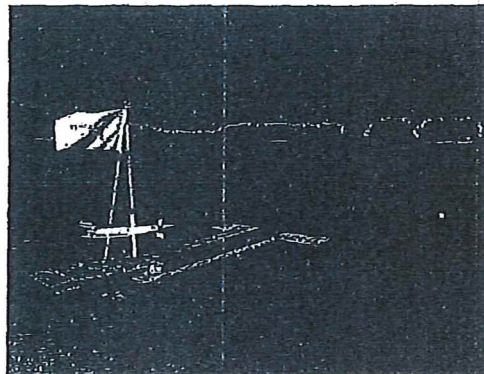
The club has been advised from KCDC staff that once this rehabilitation is complete we will not be allowed to continue to use the facility in line with the current Reserve Management Plan.

Therefore within the Pharazyn Reserve Management Plan Section 3.2.3 Policies on page 22 we request review of the following:

Section 3.2.3 Policies Clause ii) "The ponds shall be re-habilitated and managed to create waterfowl habitat and shall not be used for recreational water activities such as swimming, fishing and boating."

We request that this clause be considered to be amended to remove the word "boating" only or modified to say "other than radio controlled non-powered craft"

As part of our use of the facility to date we have restricted our usage to the northern pond only as work progressed completing the rehabilitation of the southern pond. As part of this usage a floating jetty has been constructed at our expense and installed against a section of the concrete surround as pictured below.



We have also placed marker buoys which create our courses to race our yachts around in a manner similar to full size yachts. As part of the process of placing and moving marks we use a dinghy powered by oars only to again create no disturbance to waterfowl on the pond.

Once continued re-development moves into the area pictured above, the jetty will become unusable and we would request that an area of approximately 100m either side of where it is currently placed be left as concrete wall to allow easy access to the water for ease of launching and retrieving boats.

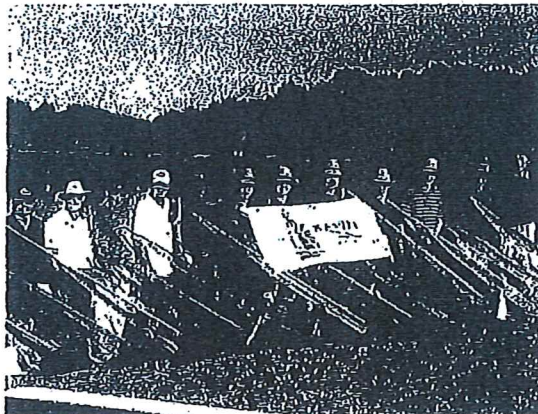
By granting the small amendment to the plan as requested above the Pharazyn Reserve North Pond has the opportunity to become one of New Zealand's premier venues in the sport of Radio Control Yachting.

This brings with it further opportunity to expose the Kapiti Coast to both national and international visitors.

Thank You

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Harmer', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chris Harmer
Secretary
Kapiti Radio Yacht Club Inc.



Passive Recreation

Introduction

1. The Kapiti Radio Yacht Club Inc.'s request for amendments to be made to the Reserve Management Plan, so as to enable them to have ongoing access to the ponds from the north side-thus paving the way for their even more detrimental longer term intentions. We consider that the nature of the current changes sought by the Club would represent a significant change to the Reserve Management Plan. Such change would require a major "review" and with that a full community consultation/submission process would be needed. In addition they are contrary to the fundamental development concepts the Reserve Management Plan sets out for the Reserve.

Why the current changes sought are significant

2. The changes sought would require a large section of the concrete wave barrier surrounding the northern pond to be left intact and exposed. This would mean abandoning current intentions/requirements to "rehabilitate" the ponds through, inter alia, restoration activities of filling, contouring and planting all of the edges to provide wildlife habitat in a true wetland configuration.
3. The Management Plan refers to "passive use" of the Reserve but provides no definition of the term as to how it may be applied. Nor is there a definition in the Reserves Act 1977. The Oxford English Dictionary describes passive "accepting or allowing what happens or what others do, without active response or resistance" and Roget's Thesaurus offers "inactive, inert, uninvolved, and non-participating". We prefer the latter definition and in simple terms interpret "passive use" to mean, in the context of the Management Plan, letting nature take its course substantially undisturbed.
4. We understand the above interpretation is consistent with that taken by some other local authorities. The Wellington Town Belt is an example of an area set aside for passive recreation. It is also consistent with the US legal definition of "passive recreation" which is foot noted below. This can be found through <http://definitions.uslegal.com/p/passive-recreation-area/>
5. Our Understanding is that in resource management law for areas such as this, if there is no guidance in NZ case law, reference has been made to US decisions and definitions.
6. The Reserve Management Plan provides guidance in respect to "passive use". Part 3. Para 3.2.3 ii) "The ponds shall be rehabilitated

and managed to create waterfowl habitat and shall not be used for recreational water activities such as swimming, fishing or boating”

7. Part 3, para 3.2.8 says “conflicts can occur in public Reserves when recreational activity or use is incompatible with the Reserve’s objectives. The Council seeks to encourage the use of the Reserve for passive recreation while protecting and enhancing the site”. The provision of a Hide and how viewing access is provided to the public also inform how “passive use” may be interpreted in this case.
8. Also, a KCDC letter of 22 December 2016 advises;
 - “in the New Zealand Recreation Association (NZRA) Park and Open Spaces Categories Framework (2011) Pharazyn Reserve’s primary purpose would fit the Natural Park category irrespective of various Reserves Act classifications. The types of uses for the Natural Park category are listed as;
 - Conservation
 - Ecological restoration/enhancement
 - Access to coast/rivers/natural environment
 - Walking/cycling
 - Information/education/interpretation
 - Open space
 - Ecosystem management
 - Low impact recreation
 - Camping
 - Picnicking
 - The category itself does not exclude boating or the KRYC activity but the general intent points to ecology and low impact. Of the NZRA categories a sport and recreation park would have a primary purpose more reflective of the KYRC activities. Other developed ponds and lakes are likely to be more suitable- particularly where active recreation and leisure activities are part of the management plan strategy”
9. In our view para 8 above provides some general support for our stance. We consider though that the current Management Plan very clearly lays out the terms of use of the Reserve and the ponds. Any change would represent a major departure and require an expensive and time consuming process of public consultation and consideration of submissions.
10. A single group proposing significant changes is not sufficient grounds in itself to throw the document open again. Even more so given that the status quo which emerged as a result of the earlier consultation is generally accepted.

Foot Note on US Passive Recreation Area & Legal Definition

"A passive recreation area is generally an undeveloped space or environmentally sensitive area that requires minimal development. Entities such as a parks department may maintain passive recreation areas for the health and well-being of the public and for the preservation of wildlife and the environment. The quality of the environment and "naturalness" of an area is the focus of the recreational experience in a passive recreation area.

Passive recreation may be defined as a non-motorized activity that:

- Offers constructive, restorative, and pleasurable human benefits and fosters appreciation and understanding of open space and its purpose
- Is compatible with other passive recreation uses
- Does not impact natural, cultural, scientific, or agricultural values
- Requires only minimal visitor facilities and services directly related to safety and minimizes passive recreation impacts"

MINUTES	MEETING	TIME
KĀPITI COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL	THURSDAY 29 AUGUST 2013	10.04AM

legal arguments had been made last Friday and a decision was expected on 13 September.

- The Expressway project was also under appeal with a deadline of Tuesday 3 September (in respect of any appeals to the Supreme Court, all appeals to the High Court having been dismissed). The Chief Executive explained the appeal process was a two-stage one with parties having to seek leave to appeal first.

(d) Declarations of interest – there were none.

KCDC 13/08/402
MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor referenced several highlights in her report including:

- The opening of the Coastlands Aquatic Centre
- Further awards for the Raumati South School
- The Police wing graduation
- 'Kapiti on a Plate' event in Ōtaki which had been very successful
- A presentation to the Chamber of Commerce on the Economic Development Strategy
- The launch of the Clean Tech cleaner emissions bus project
- The 'Greenest Street' and 'Pimp my Long Drop' competitions
- Foodbank – 1,203 parcels had been distributed in the past year; rules for distribution had been tightened up and new clientele was coming in
- The visit of Wellington City Council's Chief Executive Kevin Lavery
- A visit to the Menzshed

MOVED (Mayor/Ellis)

That the Mayor's report be received.

CARRIED

KCDC 13/08/403
APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS FOR REVIEW OF THE PHARAZYN RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN (CS-13-941)

Leisure and Open Space Planner Nathan Mourie spoke to this item, explaining that all reserves require management plans, and it had been decided that the best vehicle for reviewing the Pharazyn Reserve Management Plan was to convene a review panel. If the review panel recommended that the plan be significantly overhauled then public notification would ensue. Discussion included the following points:

- Councillors queried the timing of these appointments, would it not make more sense to delay this process until after the election; elected members appointed today might not be re-elected. The appointments could be done when the new Council meets in November. Mr Goedhart the Group Manager appointed to the Waikanae Community Board explained the desirability of convening the panel now. The panel's first task would be to scope the review

MINUTES	MEETING	TIME
KĀPITI COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL	THURSDAY 29 AUGUST 2013	10.04AM

- There was concern that the area was being used as a dumping ground for peat but this was not the case
- Discussion of potential membership resulted in the following:
 - Cr Cardiff was nominated by Cr Ellis and seconded by Cr Wooding.
 - Cr Gaylor was nominated by Cr Ammundsen and seconded by Cr Church.
 - Cr Ammundsen was nominated by Cr Gaylor and seconded by Cr Booth.
- Although only three Councillors were required for the review panel further discussion saw Councillors agree to nominate a fourth Councillor as member of the review panel.
 - Cr Lloyd was nominated by Cr Lester and seconded by Cr Gurunathan.

MOVED (Gurunathan/Church)

That the Council approves the convening of a review panel to have oversight of the Pharazyn Reserve Management Plan review process.

That the Pharazyn Reserve Management Plan review panel membership will comprise the following appointments:

Waikanae Community Board

Michael Scott

Jocelyn Prvanov

Eric Gregory

Councillors

Cr Cardiff

Cr Gaylor

Cr Ammundsen

Cr Lloyd

That Council notes there is to be no more filling of the pond edges until the Pharazyn Reserve Management Plan has been reviewed.

CARRIED

KCDC 13/08/404

REPORTS CONSIDERED AT STANDING COMMITTEES AND COMMUNITY BOARDS (CORP-13-964)

Regulatory Management Committee

MOVED (Ammundsen/Ellis)

That Council revokes the Kapiti Coast District Council Water Supply Bylaw 2010 and approves the adoption of the Kapiti Coast District Council Water Supply Bylaw 2013, included at Appendix 1 of the Statement of Proposal attached to report IS-13-952.

CARRIED

Pharazyn Reserve Management Plan-North Side Access

Back Ground

1. This is what the Plan says about access around the north, south and west sides of the ponds.
2. Page 7 of Part 1 of the Plan says, inter alia, some of the key development concepts are:
 - "Integrate the site as far as possible with the surrounding wetland landscape
 - Rehabilitate the edges of the treatment ponds to create a wetland buffer and habitat
 - Create open water habitat that would attract wildlife"
3. Page 9 goes on to say the Te Harakeke wetland which is bisected by the ponds is a regionally significant eco system. And "The rehabilitation of the treatment ponds and their re-integration with the Te Harakeke Wetland would assist the long-term viability of this significant eco system"
4. Page 13 of Part 2 says "The long-term intention is to integrate the ponds with the adjoining Te Harakeke wetlands", "opportunities for public recreation such as viewing hides along the western margin are planned". The only public access to the ponds will be along the western edge.
5. Page 15 of Part 2 says "Dense buffer planting around the margin of the ponds will restrict public access to the water, and security fences will prohibit public access around the other margins to the ponds."
6. Page 22 of Part 3 states "There shall be public access into wetland margins or open water apart from purpose built boardwalks to authorised viewing hides" and "viewing hides will be provided to encourage bird watching with minimal disturbance to birds."
7. Page 23 says "No public access is allowed, beyond security fences, to the north, east and south margins of the ponds" and "Motorised vehicles may only use the access road and car park, and are not permitted elsewhere in the Reserve."

General

8. Only the west side of the ponds is to be available for public vehicle or public access. The other sides of the ponds are to be progressively developed and densely planted in a way which integrates with the surrounding wetland and provides a very safe habitat for birds.

9. The Plan as it is remains a living and legal binding document. While there is a review pending the fact remains that until a new document is produced the existing one remains in force. I would be surprised if legal advice would say that non-compliance with the Plan is appropriate because it may be under review.
10. As an aside it remains unclear why a costly review is necessary if there are only one party, KYRC, seeking changes. Presumably because they are aware their activity is inconsistent with the Plan. No information has been received of other parties wanting a review.

Conclusions

11. Even if their activity was permissible under the current plan
 - The KRYC should not be able to use north side of the ponds for their activities.
 - They should not have been allowed to take vehicles down the north side of the ponds
 - KCDC is acting ultra vires the Plan in allowing access to the north side.