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**MINUTES**  
of the  
**SUBMISSIONS HEARING MEETING**  
held  
**9.30 am, Tuesday, 13 April 2021**  
at  
**Tasman Council Chamber, 189 Queen Street, Richmond**

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**Present:** Councillor C Mackenzie (Chair)  
Deputy Mayor S Bryant, Councillors K Maling & D Ogilvie  
Mātauranga Māori experts: Marlin Elkington & Ursula Passl

**In Attendance:** Community Development Manager (S Edwards), Reserves and Facilities Manager (R Hollier), Policy Advisor (A Gerraty), Executive Support Officer (G Drummond)

**1 OPENING, WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed attendees to the Hearing and invited Mr Elkington to open the meeting with a karakia. Panel members and staff introduced themselves.

**2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

There were no apologies.

**3 REPORTS**

**3.1 Submissions and deliberations on the proposals to classify existing reserves located in Moutere-Waimea Ward**

The report provided the Hearing Panel with a summary of the submissions received. Mrs Gerraty took her report as read and explained that an updated version, containing staff comments on matters raised by submitters, would be tabled after the hearing part of the meeting concludes.

The Chair thanked Mrs Gerraty for all her work and efforts.

**4 CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Cr Mackenzie noted the Wakefield Playcentre made a submission and that she intends to sit back from the table when this submission is discussed, as her son is on the Playcentre Board.

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## **5 HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS ON THE PROPOSALS TO CLASSIFY RESERVES IN MOUTERE-WAIMEA WARD**

### **Helen Campbell (26649)**

Helen spoke to her submission via Zoom.

She would like to see both Faulkner Bush and Robson Reserve protected and classified as s.19(1)(a).

Any loss would be totally unnecessary. Any previous loss was due to neglect, until the Wakefield Bush Restoration Society started up and it is very important to recognise their work in these reserves.

DOC has identified this area as a priority ecosystem management unit. Important to recognise that DOC recommends that a wetland be constructed and planted in the cabbage tree paddock so water from the stream can be brought in and feed important flora in Faulkner Bush and Edward Baigent Memorial Scenic Reserve; Helen agrees that this needs to be done.

Supports planting of native trees on the hill side where stand of Douglas fir are currently.

At one point Council was talking about channelling storm water from Eighty Eight Valley ditches into the cabbage tree paddock, doesn't understand why this didn't happen. Helen suggests council locates a copy of Dr Ian Campbell's report, to see what he has to say, interested in water levels.

Helen suggests a Scenic Reserve Management Plan of its own for each of these three bush remnants.

Helen asked Council to honour the three groups of volunteers that work in these reserves as she believes we wouldn't have these lovely areas, they would be covered in weeds if not for them.

Commended Doug and Evie-Joy South and Beryl Wilkes for all their work over the years on these reserves, as well as people who have since passed on but contributed a lot to these reserves.

Mr Elkington commended Helen on her submission.

### **Rob Brown (26824)**

Rob spoke to his submission – he submitted on three issues: Dominion Flats, Faulkner Bush and Robson Reserve.

Dominion Flats: doesn't believe this should be classified as recreation reserve as it requires more protection. It is not suitable for recreation as it's a smaller reserve planted in a lot of natives.

His view is that Faulkner Bush should be scenic reserve under s.19(1)(a). On 14 April 2004, Council advertised in public notices their intention to declare these reserves as scenic reserves under s.19(1)(a) of the Reserves Act and a resolution was passed on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2004.

### **Doug South (26697) Wakefield Bush Restoration Society (2000) Inc.**

Doug spoke to his submission. Prior to human settlement there were 12,000 hectares of native forest on the Waimea Plains, now there are only 50 hectares left. These pieces of land are important to everyone; they are extremely important taonga and we are lucky to have these available for public use. Kahikatea stands, some are 150-200 years old, you don't get to see these often. Doug is totally against 19(1)(b) classification for these scenic reserves. According

to the Reserves Act Guide, these should be scenic reserve s.19(1)(a).

Faulkner Bush house site, the bushes there are exotic but are historic.

The Wakefield Bush Restoration Society would have already removed the pine plantation on the hill at the back of Faulkner Bush, but couldn't due to health and safety limitations - Council was supposed to remove this plantation by now.

Doug mentioned Edward Baigent Memorial Scenic Reserve is classified as 19(1)(a) as well Snowden's bush also; both reserves contain paths, mown areas, tracks and picnic areas – similar to Faulkner Bush.

The Chair thanked Doug for all his work and restoration efforts he and his team put in.

**Lloyd and Ian Faulkner (26773)**

Lloyd spoke to the submission.

Lloyd explained to the Panel that when his great aunt died, Faulkner Bush was passed to two of his cousins. By the time it was sold to Council it had been in the family for 100 odd years. The Faulkner family sold it to the council in the 1960s on the condition that the Waimea County Council protected it in perpetuity.

Lloyd said he was unsure why it is necessary to change from Scenic A to B. The board walks and tracks in the reserve are important to retain, as we don't want the same thing that happened in the Kauri forest.

A s.19(1)(a) classification would ensure protection and would mean it is safe from roads etc. being built through the reserve in future.

Believes this is an iconic bit of bush and it is up to the Council to protect it as the previous Council did/was supposed to.

Agreed with Doug South regarding classification of Faulkner Bush, i.e. it should be Scenic A.

The Panel thanked Lloyd for his submission and for sharing his family history of the Reserve.

**Ms Gowan Simpson (26778)**

Ms Simpson was invited to speak by the Chair.

She supports the other submitters who have spoken this morning and believes that the 19(1)(a) classification is very important for the three reserves in the Wakefield area.

**Mrs Susan Shaw (26829)**

Susan spoke to her submission via Zoom.

Supports the Council's proposal for Robson Reserve as both part scenic and part recreation. Would like the reserve to remain open for dog walkers and horse riders, as well as the adjoining Eighty Eight Valley Reserve that is proposed to be classified as local purpose esplanade reserve.

Thanked Tasman District Council for opening up Robson Reserve said it has been well received by Wakefield Residents.

Thanked Doug South and the Wakefield Bush Restoration Society for the work they have done to protect the part of the reserve that is scenic and for protecting the totara trees.

Susan shared her personal story about using Robson Reserve. She adopted some ponies, when Robson Reserve opened up they were able to walk from home to ride the ponies in the

recreation part of the reserve. This is a good way to make connections within the community.

Susan also noted that the access was fine for able people, but people on disability scooters struggled to hold the gate as the spring is strong.

**Riki Kotua (26827)- Wakatū Incorporation**

Mr Kotua spoke to this submission – he is legal counsel for Wakatū Inc.

He highlighted that many of the reserves in the Moutere-Waimea ward are potentially subject to the Nelson Tenths Reserves claim, particularly those between Kina Peninsula and Māpua. Therefore he recommends Council consults with Rore Stafford on these proposals to classify these reserves. (Note that staff have subsequently contacted the CEO of Wakatū Inc, who advised “*Wakatu is managing the strategy and logistics with respect to the Supreme Court case and all other matters, with Rore Stafford overseeing this in his role as head of the working committee and also as a Wakatū Board director - hence there is no need to consult directly with Rore on these matters as they are reported through to him via our working committee at Wakatū*”).

Staff mentioned that two meetings between Council and Wakatū Inc have been held during the consultation period.

**Gillian Pollock (26819) - Forest & Bird, Nelson Tasman Branch**

Gillian tabled a document which she spoke to (refer Appendix A).

**Mr David Sissons (26704) from the Waimea Inlet Forum working group and Gillian Bishop.**

David was joined by Chair of the Waimea Inlet Coordination Group (WICG), Gillian Bishop to speak to the submission.

Gillian explained that the WICG is comprised of Tasman District Council, Nelson City Council, Department of Conservation, Fish and Game, Tasman Environmental Trust and the Waimea Inlet Forum (WIF). The Group is responsible for the management and implementation of the Waimea Inlet Action Plan 2018-2021 and both are relevant to today’s hearing.

There are three objectives in the Waimea Inlet Action Plan:

- Objective 1 – the environmental health of the Inlet is sustained.
- Objective 2 – natural ecosystems in the Inlet are restored and protected.
- Objective 3 – people value and enjoy the Inlet and collaborate in caring for it, for present and future generations.

David spoke to his submission and explained to the Panel the work the Waimea Inlet Forum have been doing to restore the shoreline of the Waimea Inlet, including on Council reserves. In addition to trapping along 50 kms of the shoreline, more than 40,000 native plants have been planted since 2015. In 2020 alone, the volunteer time came to about 3000 hours, with more in the pipeline.

WIF is pleased the council is reviewing the reserve management plan.

These reserves contain/sit alongside significant natural habitats. Legal protection is needed to help link the areas together over time, and return the shoreline of the western Inlet to its natural state. It has been extensively damaged by human settlement.

Would like to see Dominion Flats, Hoddy Estuary Park, Research Orchard Road, Pearl Creek and Cotterell Road reserves be classified as Scenic Reserve B.

Understands the pressure of people and the urban surrounding of the Māpua shoreline and

Grossi Point disrupting the natural shoreline, so so will be less concerned if these are to be classified as recreational or local purpose esplanade reserves.

**Elsbeth Collier (26828) Residents of the Matahua Peninsula, Waimea Inlet**

Elsbeth delivered a PowerPoint presentation showing before and after photos of restoration work on the reserve, and tabled a document that she spoke to (refer Appendix B).

Elsbeth spoke on behalf of the three different owners of the properties that adjoin the reserve.

**Judy (26762) and David (26572) Mitchell**

Judy and David tabled a document which Judy spoke to (refer Appendix C).

**Rex Hunt (26757)**

Rex told the Panel a personal story about why the classification of Aranui Park is important to him. He was living with Bernard and Dorothy Wells (who gifted this land to the Crown) when the idea of Aranui Park was floated and is here to convey their original idea, that the land be given to the people of Māpua for the future. They understood the importance of healthy ecosystems and biodiversity for the future survival of our planet and humankind.

**Marion Satherley (26857) - Māpua & Districts Community Association**

Marion spoke to the MDCA submission. She wanted to emphasise a couple points:

1. Connectivity - want to ensure current and future planning enables cycling and walking between streets, local reserves and amenities and from the estuary and sea margins so people are able to enjoy those areas once all the areas are built on.
2. Dominion Flats and Aranui Park - would like to see these classified as 19(1)(b).

She provided some history of Dominion Flats. MDCA work closely with the Reserves team at Council. Majority of the 6.3 ha area at Dominion Flats is now planted in native plants.

Aranui Park, was a four hectare block of family land that was gifted from the Wells family to the Department of Lands and Survey, as the family were unsure that the Council would honour the terms of the gift. The Council now has this land due to the Department of Lands and Survey no longer existing.

The Wells family had a battle with Council over the years to ensure the nature of their gifted land was honoured. The MDCA believes it is up to Council to ensure this intention is honoured and that there is a responsibility to ensure the greatest protection for all the reserves, especially ones such as Aranui and Dominion Flats. The MDCA believes Aranui Park and Dominion Flats need to be classified under s.19(1)(b).

Lunch break commenced from 11.52pm.

The meeting resumed at 12.30pm.

## **6 DELIBERATIONS**

Mrs Gerraty tabled the updated version of the hearing and deliberations report, containing staff comments on matters raised by submitters. The Hearing Panel took 10 minutes to read through the additional text and staff recommendations before beginning their deliberations.

Mr Hollier provided an overview of the classification section of the Reserves Act for the Panel and explained the difference between Scenic Reserve 19(1)(a) and 19(1)(b) classifications.

Ms Edwards noted that the primary purpose of the reserve is very important as the objectives

and policies in reserve management plans must align with the classification (primary purpose).

Mr Elkington said that in the Mariri/Kina area he would prefer classifications as Historic Reserve, from a cultural point of view.

Ms Passl spoke about the cultural importance of coastal reserves and the need to consider both the current state of a reserve as well as its historic significance when classifying them. She reflected on fact that the coastline was a large area of occupation and resource use for hundreds of years prior to European settlement of the area. She noted that for this process to be meaningful, further information on iwi associations would need to be incorporated into the process.

Ms Passl added that she had spoken to iwi and they acknowledged the work that Mrs Gerraty had done to gather as much iwi information as possible for the hearing process. She noted that due to capacity constraints iwi are under, they had chosen to focus on the development of the reserve management plan, rather than the reserve classification process.

Mrs Gerraty told the Panel that in her discussions with iwi they have indicated that classification of reserves is of interest to them, but due to capacity issues they were unable to make submissions. Wakatū Inc did make a submission, highlighting the cultural importance of reserves – particularly those located near the coast between Kina Peninsula and Māpua.

#### **Proposed classification for Scenic Reserve parcels at Faulkner Bush**

Cr Mackenzie noted that Edward Baigent Memorial Scenic Reserve is classified as Scenic Reserve s.19(1)(a). She understands the reasoning behind the staff recommendation that Faulkner Bush be classified as Scenic Reserve s.19(1)(b), but is mindful of the overwhelming support from the community to classify as Scenic Reserve s.19(1)(a).

Mrs Gerraty advised the Panel that comments from DOC staff in the report are also staff advice, as Council will be classifying reserves under delegated authority from the Minister of Conservation. She noted that sometimes the Council staff and DOC staff advice is conflicting, as both organisations have different views on the appropriate classification.

Cr Maling said he was happy to consider classifying Faulkner Bush under s.19(1)(a) if the correct process is followed, although he wanted to ensure the three exotic protected trees can be retained.

The Panel agreed to recommend to Council that the three Scenic Reserve parcels at Faulkner Bush be classified under s.19(1)(a), and that the report to Council include a resolution ensuring that the three protected trees and other exotic species near the old Faulkner Homestead may be retained.

#### **Proposed classification for the Scenic Reserve parcel at Robson Reserve**

Mr Hollier explained to the Panel that Robson Reserve is in two parts, one part is already classified as Recreation Reserve.

The Panel questioned what has changed since 2005 for the staff recommendation to switch from 19(1)(a) to 19(1)(b).

Mr Hollier explained staff were unsure what evaluation was done in 2005 for it to have been proposed as a 19(1)(a) classification. In the Native Habitat Tasman Report for Robson Reserve, the forest remnant is ranked as of medium significance, while Faulkner Bush was ranked as highly significant.

Cr Mackenzie suggested that this part of Robson Reserve be classified under s.19(1)(a) to reflect the community's desire for this status,

Ms Passl noted that Robson Reserve would still be protected under s.19(1)(b). It is not on at the same level of significance as Edward Baigent Memorial Scenic Reserve and Faulkner Bush, but would still be acknowledged as an important area under s.19(1)(b).

Cr Ogilvie supports classification under s.19(1)(a). Although Robson Reserve is smaller than other reserves with bush remnants, it is still a high quality piece of land, with a very high standard of indigenous forest.

The majority of the Panel agreed to recommend to Council that the Scenic Reserve area of Robson Reserve be classified under s.19(1)(a).

#### **Proposed classification for Pine Hill Heights Reserve**

Staff discussed the current state of Pine Hill Heights Reserve (continuing to degrade due to ongoing pest plant infestations) and mentioned that potentially weed control could be undertaken via Jobs for Nature funding if funding was received for SNA projects.

Cr Ogilvie said due to the current condition of the reserve 19(1)(b) would be the highest classification he would support. He would like to see some work done to get this up to standard.

The rest of the Panel were also in favour of the s19(1)(b) classification.

Ms Passl commented on the importance of acknowledging the significant historical and cultural values along the coastline, which will need to be identified through further iwi consultation. She added that it will be important for this information is incorporated into the Reserve Management Plan to recognise longstanding cultural values associated with the reserve areas.

#### **Proposed classification for Aranui Park**

The key reason for the staff recommendation is due to the title for the land stating recreation purposes. It is also similar to other urban parks around the District that are classified as Recreation reserves.

Ms Passl supports the staff proposal for Aranui Park to be classified as Recreation reserve.

It was noted the neighbouring property is in the process of being subdivided.

Cr Mackenzie noted that a common theme from submissions was a desire to honour the wishes of the Wells family who originally donated the land. Council needs to protect and understand the original wishes for the land and work towards that.

Cr Ogilvie noted that the Māpua community strongly feel this should be a scenic reserve. Would like to listen to and be supportive of the community.

The establishing wetland has ecological value and the community want this to be a scenic reserve.

Ms Passl and Councillors Maling, Mackenzie and Ogilvie support a recommendation to classify Aranui Park as Scenic Reserve under s.19(1)(b) classification.

Mr Elkington suggested Aranui Park could be classified as Local purpose (esplanade) reserve.

Ms Edwards reminded the committee that only a small portion of people submitted on the proposals, and advised the Panel to take into consideration that some people who may be happy with the staff recommendations have not submitted.

#### **Proposed classification for Dominion Flats Reserve**

DOC staff recommended a Scenic Reserve under s.19(1)(b) classification, whereas Council staff recommended a recreation reserve classification for Dominion Flats.

Mr Hollier explained the staff recommendation is based on the original purpose that the land was taken for, which was to create a walkway linkage – this use is compatible with the primary purpose of recreation reserves.

Crs Ogilvie and Mackenzie outlined the need to respect the views of the community, as if it wasn't for the voluntary work undertaken by the community Dominion Flats wouldn't be what it is now. They would both recommend Dominion Flats be classified as Scenic Reserve under s.19(1)(b).

Ms Passl recalled that during the road work deliberations for the State Highway, iwi had recommended, through the development of a cultural impact assessment, that areas be set aside for restoration and enhancement work as an act of reciprocity – to offer something back for what was taken through the road development.

Cr Mackenzie, Cr Ogilvie, Mr Elkington and Ms Passl all supported a recommendation to Council that Dominion Flats be classified as Scenic Reserve under s.19(1)(b).

#### **Proposed classification for Lord Rutherford Memorial**

The Panel was supportive of the staff recommendation that these three parcels of land be classified as Historic Reserve.

#### **Proposed classification for Dominion Flats Walkway and Dawson Road Walkway**

The Panel was supportive of the staff recommendation that both reserves be classified as Local Purpose (Walkway) Reserves.

#### **Proposed classification for most reserves adjoining Waimea Inlet (except Hoddy Estuary Park)**

The Panel was supportive of the staff recommendation that these reserves be classified as Local Purpose (Esplanade) Reserves.

#### **Proposed classification for Wakefield Recreation Reserve**

The Panel was supportive of the staff recommendation that these three parcels of land be classified as Recreation Reserve.

#### **Discussion on naming of reserves**

Ms Passl questioned Council's obligations to iwi under section 4 of the Reserves Act around the naming of reserves.

Staff explained that we very rarely officially name a reserve, as it requires a public consultation process ending with publication of the name in the New Zealand Gazette.

Beryl Wilkes is currently working with iwi on the naming of four reserves in the District – she is following the process outlined in Council's Reserves General Policy document for this.

Ms Passl explained that Te Reo Māori/bilingual names for reserves is one way to acknowledge iwi relationships with the land.

#### **Proposed classification for Hoddy Estuary Park**

Cr Maling noted the access to Hoddy Park isn't easy, it's rather dangerous to access crossing that highway.

Staff explained that the original owners of the land who gifted it wanted it used for recreation.

The land is not suitable for all kinds of recreation, more passive recreation.

Mr Elkington suggested it could be classified as Local Purpose (Esplanade) Reserve.



Ms Edwards reminded the Panel that no submissions were received suggesting Hoddy Estuary Park be classified as a Local Purpose (Esplanade) reserve. If the Panel made a new suggestion such as this, there is possibility this could be challenged. Panel members would be individually liable if such a case was successful.

All Panel members except Mr Elkington support a recommendation to Council that Hoddy Estuary Park be classified as Recreation Reserve.

Mrs Gerraty reminded the Panel of Wakatū Inc's request to take cultural values into consideration when classifying reserves.

Ms Passl noted the importance of further iwi engagement through the review of the Tasman Resource Management Plan regarding cultural significance and appropriate levels of protection; this relates in particular to coastal areas where many reserves are located.

**Moved Cr Mackenzie/Deputy Mayor Bryant  
SH21-04-2**

**That the Hearing Panel:**

- 1. receives the submissions on the proposals to classify existing reserves located in Moutere-Waimea Ward; and**
- 2. in response to matters raised in the submissions received on the proposals to classify reserves, requests staff make the following changes to the proposals, to present to Full Council for their consideration when making their decision on final reserve classifications:**
  - a. amend the proposed classification of Dominion Flats Reserve from Recreation to Scenic s.19(1)(b); and**
  - b. amend the proposed classification of Aranui Park from Recreation to Scenic s.19(1)(b); and**
  - c. amend the proposed classification of Faulkner Bush from Scenic s.19(1)(b) to Scenic s.19(1)(a); and**
  - d. amend the proposed classification of Robson Reserve from Scenic s.19(1)(b) to Scenic s.19(1)(a); and**
- 3. agrees that staff give effect to the recommendations referred to in Resolution 2 above when preparing the final proposals to classify reserves; and**
- 4. agrees that all other classifications should remain as publicly notified; and**
- 5. requests that staff report back to Council at the time of consideration of the classification report, on the areas of exotic vegetation which may need to be retained in the areas proposed to be classified as Scenic Reserve under section 19 (1) (a) of the Reserves Act 1977; and**
- 6. agrees that the Hearing Panel report that includes the final proposals to classify reserves be presented to Full Council for consideration and adoption on 20 May 2021.**

**CARRIED**

The meeting concluded at 3.05pm

Date Confirmed:

Chair:

Unconfirmed

# Appendix A

## Management Plan for the Moutere-Waimea Ward reserves

Oral submission from the Nelson Tasman branch of the Forest and Bird Protection Society,  
April 2021

World-wide there is an awareness that having run the planet into a parlous state with wrecked and ruined ecology we have to build it up again in order for any of us to have a future. The repair has to begin with re-establishing healthy natural ecosystems at all altitudes.

The bottom line is not what we see today, the bottom line is as Geoff Park, in "Nga Uruora" describes, the country before any humans came here – sparkling clear water, lush plant growth and thriving fauna throughout the country.

Many people have little or no access to natural places and have no idea that so many of the trees and birds they see were brought here by settlers and are the survivors of the last northern hemisphere glaciation. These exotics survive at all coasts and overrun anything that gets in their way, we see them every day and call them weeds and pests.

The council has the means to reverse the degradation in this region by establishing and supporting permanent reserves of thriving native flora and fauna. And to ensure these reserves are protected from any incursion by development such as housing and roads they need to be ratified as **Scenic reserves**.

We have included in our submission – Dominion Flats which has the advantage of including land rising from sea level to hillsides and will absorb pollution run-off and fumes from Te Mamaku highway. As the trees grow much of the highway noise will be absorbed and the circular walkway round it will provide a refreshing peaceful walk through vibrant native forest.

Higgs reserve is a remnant of the original coastal tree cover and covers land from the Inlet water level to cliff tops. This is one of very few such remnants and is linked to nearby private land being restored to bush.

Pearl Creek also runs from the Inlet waterline to gently rising inland. It supports estuarine birdlife and will be an important retreat and nesting area for wading birds during ever rising tides. This is part of a larger area which is likely to be affected by rising tides all of which will form an invaluable coastal wildlife reserve.

Aranui Park with its mix of private covenanted wetland, restored public wetland, large trees and open space has been wonderfully restored over many years by local landowners and volunteers.

McKee Domain <sup>the</sup> is only area of significant coastal native bush left between the Able Tasman National Park and Nelson from the once continuous coastal bush. It contains some rare trees, including a giant Lancewood tree 150 – 200 years old. This area of original coastal bush should be preserved by Scenic reserve status.

Wakefield and Brightwater bush remnants are also remnants of the original bush cover and are inland treasures.

There may be other reserves also worthy of perpetual protection but these are the ones we are aware of and all are needing the protection that ratification as Scenic reserves will give them.

In addition we ask the council to support the planting of native trees wherever possible. There is no reason to plant exotics in recreation grounds or along streets or particularly along streams. Our natives supply colour and interest, shelter and food for birds, lizards and invertebrates, many are medicinal. They renew their foliage year-round so continually sequester carbon and other impurities. Above all they evolved here.

Signed: Gillian Pollock

## Appendix B

I am Elspeth Collier. I'm here today on behalf of residents of the properties adjoining the Apple Valley Road Esplanade Reserve.

Our submission requests that the Reserve is classified as a Scenic Reserve, rather than a local purpose esplanade reserve.

The reserve and its environs have very high biodiversity values, and we are hopeful that the area will get the best possible protection in the future with Scenic Reserve status.

The reserve forms a natural buffer for the Matahua Saltmarsh, which is classified as a Significant Natural Area. A full report on the Saltmarsh was done by Michael North for the Council in 2010.

The salt marsh and the vegetation in the reserve work together to form a vegetation sequence in roughly 3 zones working upwards from sea level.

1. The salt marsh plants in the estuary
2. The shoreline shrubs/grasses and harakeke on the low parts of the reserve.
3. The tall coastal forest trees.

Sequences like this are now rare around the Waimea Inlet. The forest trees are around 50 years old, and have been interplanted with a younger generation of black

beech, rimu, totara, matai, titoki, kahikatea, putaputaweta and more.

The Matahura Saltmarsh is an abundant ecosystem and food source for many birds that feed on the tiny crustaceans, crabs and shellfish and fish.

We have been revegetating the shoreline of the estuary and salt marsh in the reserve for the past 20 years, and more recently with The Battle for the banded Rail Community project. Also now with plants from the Billion trees fund.

The aim of the Battle for the Banded Rail is to restore habitat for the now endangered species of the Waimea Inlet ...Banded Rail, Marsh Crake , Australasian Bittern and fernbird. We have 17 traps around the peninsula and in the reserve. All 4 properties on the peninsula have no-cat covenants, and there are no resident dogs, giving the birdlife as good a chance as possible to breed in the area.

This was the remains of a pukeko after an attack by 2 dogs from a neighbouring peninsula.

We hope that the classification as scenic reserve could help make the Apple Valley Road Esplanade Reserve as dog free zone in the future when the dog control by laws are next reviewed.

The lower levels of the reserve are vulnerable to sea level rise and storm surges. There was a glimpse of what the future might look like in the 2018 Cyclone Fehi storm.

The planting that is now happening on the lower levels is nearly all salt tolerant species such as coastal ribbon wood, harakeke etc. The level that the salt tolerant species is planted is being raised with the hope of allowing the salt marsh to migrate inland as sea levels rise.

The still intact vegetation sequences and soft edges are becoming increasingly rare, as more houses and commercial buildings are built around the edges of the Waimea Inlet. Protecting the remaining wild and natural areas is a huge challenge for the future. These precious and vulnerable places need as much help and protection as possible to preserve the habitat of the birds of then Waimea Inlet.

This peaceful evening scene is on the shore of the inlet below the Thawley's land at Higgs Road, which protected in perpetuity by a QE2 open space covenant. We look forward to a future where more of the high value areas of the inlet get this level of protection.

## Appendix C

### **Seeking a change to Scenic Reserve Status for Aranui Park and Dominion Flats**

*My name is Judy Mitchell and, with the leave of the chairperson, I also speak for David Mitchell so you don't get a lot of repetition. We live on a property that includes a restored 1 hectare forested wetland under QE11 protection and we share a long boundary with Aranui Park. We have been involved with the planting in the park for 14 years.*

Over 90 per cent of New Zealand's wetlands have been drained, filled in or deforested. In the Tasman district, wetlands loss is closer to 98 per cent. Most of its remaining wetlands are in Golden Bay.

We now understand that wetlands play an essential role in biodiversity and the health of waterways. This is why the government has passed legislation, the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM 2020), requiring councils to identify, protect and restore wetlands in their jurisdictions.

In the past there were a number of local wetlands, one being the Kōrepe or Seaton Valley swamp forest ending in the very heart of Māpua. In pre European times it featured kahikatea, pukatea, rimu and extensive areas of harakeke. All these were milled, and the tree stumps burned over decades— this burning was still recalled by the late Ivan Wells one of the oldest Māpua residents. Aranui Park and Māpua Wetlands are at the bottom of this valley. For decades the land carried a few stock, but the swampiness remains to this day despite extensive ditches. In the 1930s a Caterpillar tractor all but disappeared into the swamp.

4.1 ha of this swamp was gifted in 1977 “to the people of NZ” by Bernard Wells and his family to be a NZ natural heritage reserve featuring kahikatea. That is Aranui Park. Lands and Survey gave him 10 cents for it. As a student I worked picking apples with Bernard in the days of morning & afternoon teas and we talked among the treetops all day. He spoke often of his dream to restore some of the forest that used to be in Māpua, and his regret at the loss of kahikatea in particular. He guessed Māpua would grow and he felt people should know what the land used to look like. When Lands & Survey was dis-established in 1989 the park was vested with the council as a recreation reserve.

Local people planted up the park. In those early days there were few plant nurseries and little spare money so the family depended on local people donating



young trees from their gardens, hence there were a lot of exotics planted especially on the drier eastern side. However on the wetter western side native trees, **particularly kahikatea and rimu** were established along with the exotic swamp cedar, and then since 2007 there has been a sustained project to restore the original native forest in work undertaken by Māpua School, Māpua Wetland members, and the TDC. TDC has supplied the Tāne's Ark project with a number of grants over the years to buy plants for its reserve and **council staff** have **helped organise** and **supervise planting days involving the whole school**.

**Together with the adjacent Māpua Wetland, the total 2-3ha planted wetland forms a significant contribution to Moutere biodiversity.** Approximately 12,000 plants have been hand planted, including threatened species such as the narrow-leafed maire tree, the baumea reed and carex geminata. In their first twelve years the two wetland projects won four conservation awards, for their wide range of species and their community involvement.

Dominion Flats, an even bigger project, led by **Helen and Neville Bibby**, was once part of a similar forest that was destroyed but in the last decade has also been planted by the community with the same goal in view: to restore a wetland forest for the health of the wildlife, the waterways, and the community, not to mention a scenic gateway to Māpua. As we now also know, trees and forests have an important positive influence on our physical and mental health and are especially important in urban areas. The Dominion Flats wetland forests already have tracks and also 8 bridges built by community members. Most of the hard planting and weeding has been achieved in thousands of voluntary hours by locals, all sorts of groups and the school.

**We believe that if these significant wetlands are not protected by a scenic reserve status they can be compromised.**

Firstly, a scenic reserve status protects the trees and the indigenous biodiversity these wetlands provide. The work to establish and look after them has been done by the community with excellent guidance and support from council staff. Protecting them is an ongoing community concern but also now **a legal duty for the council as well under the 2020 wetland regulations.**

Secondly, the present designation of Recreation Reserve which is designed for sports fields and infrastructure, is inappropriate. Once you allow permanent buildings or fixed assets for sports groups, the nature of these parks will permanently change. In the case of Aranui Park the family who donated it was very clear it was to be a place for peaceful relaxation and picnics, they did not want

buildings, sportsfields, structures or cars. There is a letter from the family protesting the idea of a skateboard park mooted years ago, and another objecting to a proposal for barbecues and carparks. A scenic reserve status is the only status that honours their generosity and sacrifice. During lock down last year many local people used the park for walking and cycling and rejoiced in its tranquility.

Finally, as Mapua rapidly grows more suburban, scenic reserves provide opportunities to **enjoy enduring areas of bush and green space** away from cars and buildings. They provide related activities such as the **pā harakeke** or **flax garden for weavers** in Aranui Park and environmental activities for school children. This provision of trees and plants to enhance quality of life and protect against flooding *and so on even* has a name these days: green infrastructure.

We believe these two wetland forested reserves, **formed** and supported by local volunteers, are now part of local green infrastructure. We urge you to support the greater long-term protection offered by the scenic reserve classification.