

# STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Community Services Committee

**FROM:** Administration Advisor

**REFERENCE:** 31945

**DATE:** 19 June 2007

**SUBJECT:** Kina Beach Recreation Reserve – Extended Camping Stay Trial

---

## PURPOSE/REASON FOR REPORT

To update the Committee on the recent trial for extended camping nights at the Kina Beach Recreation Reserve and to make a recommendation for the future.

## BACKGROUND

In recent years a caretaker has been employed to maintain the reserve and collect the camp fees and this has proved very successful as well as providing a means of policing the use of the reserve. One of the main concerns that the caretaker receives relates to the length of stay. We asked her to ask users of the reserve for any suggestions during September last year, and the majority of these requested an extended period for camping.

The Community Services Committee considered a report on this at the October 2006 meeting, and resolved the following:

THAT the short-stay camping at the Kina Reserve be increased from a maximum stay of two nights to a maximum stay of four nights for a trial period ending 28 February 2007, at which time the trial will be reviewed in consultation with the Tasman Area Community Association and a further recommendation forwarded to the Community Services Committee.

## COMMENT/DISCUSSION

The trial period commenced in late October and all comments received from the Caretaker were positive.

A letter has recently been received from the Tasman Area Community Association expressing some concern about the legality of the trial, what the Management Plan says about dogs and what the reserve should be used for.

The Association was advised that:

- (1) It was a Council decision for the trial period and if Council wished to change the maximum number of camping nights at this reserve then a change may need to be made to the Management Plan.
- (2) The Plan states "Retain the option of prohibiting dogs at the reserve, at the discretion of the Council and Management Committee". Council's Dog Control Bylaw has as a controlled exercise area "Kina Beach – exposed seaward side of the beach".
- (3) The Plan says "management of the reserve is for recreation and enjoyment by the public, especially for its value as a picnicking and short-term camping area".

The following are the adult usage figures supplied by the caretaker.

For the period 13 November 2006 to 13 February 2007:

- 1 night stays - 435 adults
- 2 night stays - 238 adults
- 3 night stays – 83 adults
- 4 night stays – 45 adults

It is also interesting to note the usage figures over the last 3 years:

2004	1198 adults
2005	1904 adults
2006	2116 adults

The large increase since 2004 is attributed to the NZ Motor Caravan Association and the NZ Camp Guide including Kina Beach in their publications. However, most of the campers are locals ie Nelson, Richmond and Motueka districts. The estimated number of people visiting the reserve (picnickers etc) is 6000 per annum.

As required by the resolution from the October 2006 meeting, I have met with representatives of the Tasman Area Community Association and three of the near neighbours to discuss the effects of the extra nights' stays and the following are points that came out of this meeting:

- In principle, the Association supported the increase provided it did not inconvenience neighbours. There was no increase in the set aside for camping and there was no upgrade to camping facilities.
- The residents themselves had similar views to the Association and wanted to protect the picnicking area from a takeover by campers.
- The Association advised that they had not heard of any problems caused by the trial and the residents were the same, although they were concerned for the future.

The meeting agreed that the trial was inconclusive and suggested that the trial be continued through to the end of next summer provided that Council would initiate a change to the Management Plan for the Kina Reserve should it be decided to increase the overnight stays to four nights at the end of the trial. At the same time they have requested that the Management Plan be more specific about the areas allowed for camping and the facilities provided.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the short-stay camping at the Kina Beach Reserve be increased from a maximum stay of two nights to a maximum stay of four nights for a further trial period ending 31 March 2008, at which time the trial will be reviewed in consultation with the Tasman Area Community Association; and that should the recommendation be to approve the four night stays permanently the following changes be initiated to the Kina Beach Reserve Management Plan:

- 1) Manage the Reserve for short-stay camping to a maximum of four nights
- 2) The area for camping be defined in the Management Plan and be the area that is currently designated for camping
- 3) No increase be made to facilities as a result of the increase to four night stays.

L L Kennedy  
**Community Services Manager**