

Tata Beach Reserves Management Plan



SEPTEMBER 2007

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This management plan sets out the objectives and policies for sixteen reserves administered by Tasman District Council at Tata Beach in the Golden Bay Ward of Tasman District. Tata Beach lies between Ligar Bay and Wainui Hill, east of Takaka, at the southeast end of Golden Bay.

1.1 Historical Context

Information provided by John and Hilary Mitchell

In early 1842, when New Zealand Company settlers arrived in Nelson, Tata was a Ngati Rarua pa with a population of approximately thirty people. In March 1842 an official exploration party left the *Elizabeth* anchored at Tata while they traveled as far as Aorere in the ship's boat. On their return they found that Te Kawatiri, the chief, had refused to allow the ship's crew to load water, coal or stone unless they paid for them, although Te Hau, Te Kawatiri's brother, showed the Pakeha coal seams near Motupipi. Later that year Te Kawatiri was convicted and fined for obstructing Pakeha exploitation of coal and lime at Motupipi, even though the New Zealand Company had breached its own rules and undertakings by allowing mining at that time.

When Barnicoat visited in September 1843, Te Kawatiri and eleven others had recently drowned in a canoe capsized at sea, and a European-style weatherboard house was under construction at the pa. Karama, Kawatiri's son, agreed to load Barnicoat's boat with potatoes in exchange for the bag of flour left over at the end of the survey. Barnicoat left some of his surveying equipment in the care of the people at Tata (chain, billhook and two theodolites) while he inspected the Motupipi area. In 1845, Reverend Reay found a number of Ngati Rarua people at Motupipi who, he said, had abandoned Tata Pa following the drownings (a common custom after the death of an important chief).

Christianity was adopted by the Tata people before any European missionary visited Massacre Bay, vouched for by Domett, who described an evening prayer meeting there in September 1842. Some European customs, such as smoking and burying the dead in coffins, were already common practice.

The New Zealand Company set aside small Native Reserves at Tata and Ligar Bay which were later abolished during negotiations following the Waipounamu Purchases of 1853-1856 and replaced by a 100-acre reserve at Tata.

Information provided by Manawhenua ki Mohua¹

Manawhenua ki Mohua are the tangata whenua iwi who hold manawhenua (customary authority) over the Mohua (Golden Bay) rohe (boundary/district). Manawhenua ki Mohua comprise three iwi: Ngati Tama, Ngati Rarua and Te Atiawa. Manawhenua ki Mohua's rohe forms and covers a rough triangle. The south point of the triangle is near the Cobb Reservoir, the west point is Kahurangi Point and the east point is near Abel Head, and all whenua (land) north of these points is included.

¹ Source: "Te Tau Ihu o Te Waka: Preliminary Report on Customary Rights in the Northern South Island - Wai 785" (2007) – Waitangi Tribunal; "Nga Taonga Tuku Iho Ki Whakatu Management Plan" (2004) – U. Passl, Personal communication with Manawhenua ki Mohua, Onetahua Marae, July 2007.

As tangata whenua, Manawhenua ki Mohua have lived in Mohua for nearly two centuries. Along with its desirable climate and a rich supply of kai (food), Mohua was also sited in a highly strategic location because major ara (trails) east, west and south traversed through Mohua territory. One of the most important of those ara travelled south-west to Poutini (the West Coast), where major sources of pounamu (greenstone) were found. Because of these natural assets and its strategic location, Mohua was therefore both highly prized and vigorously defended by tangata whenua iwi (past and present) residing there.

Over almost two centuries of occupation, Manawhenua ki Mohua have developed their own relationship with the environment and all associated nga taonga tuku iho (treasured resources). These resources include the whenua (land), ngahere (forests), wai (water), nga awa (streams and rivers) and nga moana (the seas), as well as all creatures that live within those elements, such as ika (fish), kaimoana (seafood), tuna (eels) and manu (birds).

Manawhenua ki Mohua continue to occupy Mohua today. This ahi kaa (constant occupation, the burning fires of occupation) validates and reinforces the mana (inherited and earned authority/control) of Manawhenua ki Mohua iwi. Therefore, Manawhenua ki Mohua have mana over both the whenua (land) and moana (sea) in Mohua.

Along with rights to use and manage Mohua's natural resources, Manawhenua ki Mohua also have an obligation to protect both these resources and the environment that sustains them. This obligation is embodied in the concept of kaitiakitanga (the exercise of guardianship). Manawhenua ki Mohua are therefore the kaitiaki (guardians) of nga taonga tuku iho (the treasured resources) of Mohua. Kaitiakitanga is an inherited responsibility, passed down from tupuna (ancestors) to tangata whenua to take care of places, natural resources and other taonga (treasures). Only tangata whenua can undertake kaitiakitanga.

Although derived from Maori spiritual values and cosmology, kaitiakitanga is expressed and exercised in practical ways. These include the protection and enhancement of traditional resources, maintenance of access to those resources, and the control and regulation of human activities on the environment. If tangata whenua values and aspirations in environmental decision-making are not recognised or provided for, kaitiakitanga cannot be exercised. In turn, loss of the ability to practise kaitiakitanga can lead to a decrease in tribal mana. However, tribal mana can also be gained through wise environmental resource management and use.

One way Manawhenua ki Mohua fulfil their role as kaitiaki is to engage in resource management processes, including the development of management plans for specific areas. Management planning falls under two main pieces of environmental legislation: The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and the Reserves Act 1977. Requirements for local authorities (councils) to recognise and provide for Maori culture, traditions, customary activities, protection of heritage sites and to have regard to kaitiakitanga are clearly outlined in the RMA (Sections 6-8).

In addition to those sections outlining what, in effect, will be provided for and protected, both the RMA (Section 8) and the Reserves Act (via Section 4 of the Conservation Act) require local authorities to give effect to or take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. These principles include the duty to act reasonably and in good faith; to consult and to actively protect Maori interests. These principles therefore essentially direct how the relationship between Maori and local authorities will be conducted.

Information provided by Ian Barber²

Since the early 1990s, extensive archaeological soil layers deriving from the historical interaction of early Maori settlers and the environment have been identified at Tata Beach and adjacent Ligar Bay in excavations associated with public works, residential construction and research. The archaeological soils vary between dark to very dark grey, greyish brown and black sands. Consistent physical qualities include scattered charcoal and oven stone fragments and occasional artefacts (see below). The widespread distribution of wavy to irregular soil horizon boundaries, soil mixing and the occasional outlines of small planting pits in both localities are evidence of pre-contact Maori cultivation, apparently beginning about the onset of Polynesian settlement. Sweet potato is likely to have been the focus of cultivation, although taro and gourd may have been grown as well.

At Tata Beach, cultural (human-associated) materials in these soils include black and sometimes greasy sandy lenses representing discarded oven fill, as well as charcoal and stone-filled ovens in places. Discrete shelly midden (domestic rubbish) deposits, sometimes several metres in length and up to half a metre thick, are found in places. Midden deposits incorporate local shellfish species, especially pipi, mussel, local gastropods, fish bone (predominantly red cod and some barracouta), as well as occasional dog, rat, small bird and fragmentary sea mammal bones. Scattered bone tools (fishhooks and lures), limestone and granite oven stone fragments, quartz cores and fragments and occasional metasomatised argillite reduction flakes and adzes are found within midden deposits. These artefact remains are also scattered through the larger, archaeological soil units.

Buried cut-rectangular pits of several metres length have been sectioned in excavation works along the present beach ridge and near the crest of the old dune system around and under Peninsula Road. These features are interpreted as underground root crop stores. A relatively large pit cluster (individual pits 4-5 m long and up to 100 cm deep) is buried below tar seal at the southwest end of Peninsula Road.

Evidence of domestic structures includes postholes or post-moulds (i.e. foundation post outlines with dark soil fill). These are often found in series, especially along the beach ridge, and may be associated with such evidence as small bin pits (up to 60 cm wide) and ovens. At least one rectangular stone hearth has been excavated and mapped in context on the beach ridge near Cornwall Place. These domestic features are generally found within upper, black sandy layers where they appear to represent a coastal fishing and perhaps gardening village at a later but still pre-contact stage of the archaeological sequence.

At Tata Beach, midden deposits in lower layers have been dated by radiocarbon to around the fifteenth-sixteenth centuries AD. In places, the archaeological sequence appears to extend to the period of European contact. There is no evidence of a significant occupation soil hiatus, suggesting that settlement at Tata Beach has been relatively sustained since about the fifteenth century AD.

² *Dr Ian Barber, Senior Lecturer (archaeology), Department of Anthropology
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1.2 Origin of Tata Beach Reserves

The present-day reserves at Tata Beach, covered by this management plan, were created as a result of subdivision of land between 1957 and 1999. The dates of land subdivision for each reserve are listed below:

- 1957 (Ryder): esplanade reserve north of the boat ramp (Lot 2)
- 1959 (Windle): Petersen Road recreation reserves (Lots 14, 15 and 33)
- 1960 (Christopher): northern beachfront recreation reserve (Part Lot 3)
- 1967 (Windle): southern beachfront and estuary esplanade reserves (Lots 9 and 10)
- 1977 (Cornwall Haven Ltd): Cornwall Haven Recreation Reserve (Lot 14)
- 1984 (Tata Lands): esplanade reserve on northern coastal slopes (Lot 6)
- 1986 (Cornwall Haven Ltd): recreation reserves at north end of Cornwall Place (Lots 1 and 2)
- 1988 (Windle): local purpose reserve along foreshore around the southern peninsula (Lot 5)
- 1991 (Kennedy, Manson, Mathews): local purpose reserve beside Abel Tasman Drive (Lot 15)
- 1999 (Kennedy, Manson, Mathews): local purpose reserve beside Tata Heights (Lot 42)

1.3 Format of the Management Plan

This management plan sets out objectives and policies for the management of the reserves at Tata Beach. Firstly, general objectives, derived from the Council's statutory obligations under the Reserves Act 1977 and Resource Management Act 1991, are listed. Secondly, general policies that apply to all Council-administered reserves in Golden Bay are listed. Thirdly, general objectives for the Tata Beach reserves are listed. And finally, policies specific to Tata Beach reserves are listed.

The presentation of objectives and policies in this hierarchical way is intended to ensure that management of each reserve is compatible with the Council's statutory obligations under the Reserves Act 1977, while avoiding the need to list these policies separately for each reserve.

2.0 RESERVES MANAGEMENT PLANNING

2.1 Reserve Acquisition

Reserves and open space are acquired by Council to provide for the recreational needs of people and to protect amenity and natural resource values. Ideally, there should be sufficient reserves and open space to meet the needs of present and future residents of the area.

Reserves can be acquired in several ways. When land is subdivided, the Local Government Act 1974 requires that a reserves contribution be made to Council by the landowner. This contribution can be in land or cash, or a combination of both. The size of the contribution is a percentage of the value of the allotments created by the subdivision, as determined by the Tasman Resource Management Plan. Land set aside through this process is vested in Council as reserve land. Cash contributions are used by Council to acquire land for reserves or to develop existing reserves and community facilities.

When land adjacent to the sea, lakes or rivers is subdivided the Resource Management Act 1991 requires that land be set aside as esplanade reserve, or that public access is protected by the establishment of an access strip. The area of land set aside is determined by the provisions of the Resource Management Act 1991, and outlined in the Proposed Tasman Resource Management Plan. Access strips are identified on property titles. Access strips are not covered by this management plan as Council does not own the land affected by such strips. There is no requirement for esplanade reserves or recreation reserves to perform the function of buffering adjacent land.

Council may purchase land, or receive land as a gift, for administration as reserve. Council can also acquire land under the Public Works Act 1981, but such land must be offered back to the previous owner if it is ever disposed. Central Government may transfer responsibility for day to day administration and management of Crown reserves to Council by either vesting reserves in Council or by appointing Council to control and manage reserves. Such land remains the property of central Government and cannot be disposed by Council.

2.2 Reserve Classification

Under the Reserves Act 1977, reserves are classified according to their principal or primary purpose. All Reserves Act reserves administered by Tasman District Council at Tata Beach are Recreation or Local Purpose reserves. Esplanade Reserves set aside under the Resource Management Act 1991 are administered by Council as Local Purpose Reserves under the Reserves Act 1977.

2.3 Management Planning

The Reserves Act 1977 requires that most reserves must have an operative management plan. The purpose of a management plan is to ensure that the management of each reserve is compatible with the purposes of its reservation. The Reserves Act 1977 requires that the management plan “...shall provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection, and preservation...” of the reserve, as appropriate to its classification. Tasman District Council recognizes kaitiakitanga

practices and the protection and preservation of Maori history and taonga associated with reserves, subject to the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977.

Ideally, a management plan should identify the appropriate uses of a reserve, state how conflicting uses will be managed, and outline any development proposals. The Reserves Act 1977 requires that a management plan be kept under continuous review so that reserve management can adapt to changing circumstances.

2.4 Public Consultation

The Reserves Act 1977 requires that the public be consulted over any proposal to:

- declare land to be reserve
- exchange reserve land for other land
- classify, reclassify or revoke reserve land
- dispose of reserve land
- prepare a management plan for a reserve
- lease reserve land not covered by a management plan

The Reserves Act 1977 sets out the formal requirements for public consultation. For the review of this management plan the following public consultation was undertaken:

1. Council notified its intention in November 2006 to review the Tata Beach Reserves Management Plan (2001), and invited the public to provide suggestions for the plan review;
2. Council prepared a draft reviewed plan (this document), taking into consideration the suggestions received from the first stage of public consultation (above).
3. The draft reviewed plan was publicly notified in May 2007 and all those people or organisations that provided suggestions at the first stage were advised that the draft reviewed plan has been prepared. Council received written submissions on the draft up to 31st July 2007.
3. Submitters spoke in support of their written submissions at a Council hearing at Takaka on 5th September 2007.
4. The Council Hearing Committee then considered the submissions and proposed amendments to the draft reviewed plan. Council approved these amendments and the draft plan was edited to form the final plan.

3.0 RESERVES COVERED BY THIS MANAGEMENT PLAN

This management plan covers sixteen reserves administered by the Tasman District Council under the Reserves Act 1977 at Tata Beach in the Golden Bay Ward of Tasman District. These reserves are all Recreation or Local Purpose reserves.

3.1 Legal Descriptions of Tata Beach Reserves

Recreation Reserves:

Lot 14 DP 5768	0.0809 hectares, since 1959
Lot 15 DP 5768	0.0809 hectares, since 1959
Lot 33 DP 5768	0.0928 hectares, since 1959
Lot 14 DP 9720	0.0975 hectares, since 1977
Lot 1 DP 12422	0.0705 hectares, since 1986
Lot 2 DP 12422	0.1789 hectares, since 1986
Part Lot 3 DP 6052	0.5059 hectares, since 1960

Local Purpose (Esplanade) Reserves:

Lot 6 DP 11827	2.2330 hectares, since 1984
Lot 2 DP 5531	0.1800 hectares, since 1975
Lot 30 DP 5768	0.6200 hectares, since 1959
Lot 9 DP 7100	0.1670 hectares, since 1967
Lot 10 DP 7100	0.0784 hectares, since 1967
Lot 32 DP 5768	0.7440 hectares, since 1959

Local Purpose Reserves:

Lot 5 DP 11104	3.0038 hectares, since 1988
Lot 15 DP 14906	0.0809 hectares, since 1991 (pedestrian access)
Lot 42 DP 18354	0.3770 hectares, since 1999

3.2 Location and Resource Description

The Tata Beach settlement is located on a sandy beach ridge that links the peninsula in the south to the steep coastal slopes in the north. This low-lying ridge lies between the Ligar Bay estuary and Tata Bay. The peninsula and coastal hills comprise biotite granite of the Separation Point rocks. The beach ridge comprises recent alluvial and marine deposits.

The reserves covered by the management plan comprise a strip of coastal reserve extending back some 20 metres above mean high water level (along the seaward side of the settlement, around the peninsula to the south and back along the estuary side of the settlement); three recreation reserves adjacent to Cornwall Place; three recreation reserves adjacent to Petersen Road; and, two local purpose (walkway) reserves between Abel Tasman Drive and Tata Heights.

These reserves are described below in three categories:

Coastal (beachfront and estuary margin) reserves:

- A block of steep coastal land north of the main beach, densely clothed in gorse and regenerating native vegetation (Esplanade Reserve, Lot 6).

- Foreshore land along the main beach, with granite sand and dune vegetation, dense in places (e.g. Coast Care plantings) and sparse in other places, with some recent coastal erosion south from the boat ramp and short sections of formed vehicle track near the boat ramp (Recreation Reserve, Lot 3; Esplanade Reserves, Lots 2, 9 and 30).
- Foreshore land around the peninsula to the south of the settlement, consisting of rocky outcrops and steep hillslopes, mainly clothed with gorse and regenerating native vegetation above the reach of the waves (Local Purpose Reserve, Lot 5).
- Foreshore land along the estuary behind the settlement, which is well vegetated with a mixture of tall kanuka trees, lawns, garden plants and estuarine plants (Esplanade Reserves, Lots 10 and 32).

Recreation Reserves:

- Cornwall Haven Reserve, consisting of a flat area of sandy loam, with mown grass and planted trees and shrubs (Recreation Reserve, Lot 14).
- Cornwall Place Reserve, which is an undulating area of sandy loam bounded by a small stream, and the lower part of the adjacent hillside of native regeneration (Recreation Reserves, Lots 1 and 2). It has a small metalled car park, picnic shelter, boat shed, walking track, footbridge, and a lookout point on the hillslope.
- Eastern Petersen Road reserves, which have a block of public toilets, telephone exchange and a sewage pumping station set in a flat mown lawn, and has been landscaped with exotic and native trees and shrubs (Recreation Reserves, Lots 15 and 33).
- Western Peterson Road reserve, comprising a sealed car parking area adjacent to the boat ramp (Recreation Reserve, Lot 14).

Walkway and wetland reserves:

- These two reserves occupy a low-lying area between Abel Tasman Drive and Tata Heights (Local Purpose Reserves, Lots 15 and 42). A stream beside the walkway feeds a wetland, which is vegetated with low rushes. There is a strip of regenerating native bush between the walkway and Abel Tasman Drive.

3.3 Important Management Issues

This review of the Tata Beach Reserves Management Plan was prompted by the following important management issues.

Vehicle Access along the Dunes

This issue relates to the desirability of vehicle access along the back of the dune within areas of esplanade reserve. At present a formed vehicle track traverses the rear-dune south from the boat ramp at Petersen Road to the first pedestrian access-way to Peninsula Road, and north from the boat ramp to the recreation reserve (Cornwall Haven) adjacent to Cornwall Place.

Restrictions on vehicle access to the rear dune south of the first pedestrian access-way and stabilisation and revegetation of the dune were proposed in the 1996 and 2001 management plans. Closure or extension of the existing vehicle track between the boat ramp and the first pedestrian access-way, depending on the success of the Coast Care programme, was proposed in the 2001 management plan. Continued provision of vehicle access north from the boat ramp to Cornwall Haven, is proposed in the 1996 and 2001 management plans.

Important issues associated with vehicle access along the rear of the dune are:

- congestion
- encroachment onto the dune
- coastal erosion
- extension of the existing Coast Care programme
- dust and noise created by vehicles
- conflict with other reserve visitors
- legality of providing vehicle access to properties across an esplanade reserve
- provision of car and boat-trailer parking areas

Parking at the Boat Ramp

Limited space for vehicle parking in the vicinity of the boat ramp at the end of Petersen Road occasionally creates congestion during periods of high visitor use. Petersen Road is the main access road to the beach from the main road (Abel Tasman Drive). It also provides access to the only boat ramp at Tata Beach. Congestion occurs when vehicles and boat trailers are parked in the vicinity of the boat ramp, along the vehicle track at the rear of the dune (in the esplanade reserve) and along Petersen Road.

To help ease congestion, the 1996 management plan proposed the creation of a five-bay parking area just south of the boat ramp, parking bays alongside the formed road north of the boat ramp and a car parking area adjacent to Cornwall Haven. The plan also proposed the creation of a boat-trailer parking area alongside Petersen Road on the recreation reserve at the corner of Petersen Road and Abel Tasman Drive.

The 2001 management plan proposed that the car parks south of the boat ramp be restored to dune vegetation, that the existing boat-trailer parking bays near the boat ramp be shortened to car parks, and that consideration be given to providing boat-trailer parks further back from the boat ramp (as proposed in the 1996 management plan).

4.0 GENERAL OBJECTIVES FOR RESERVES MANAGEMENT

4.1 Reserves Act 1977

The reserves covered by this management plan are administered under the Reserves Act 1977. The general purpose of the **Reserves Act 1977** (Section 3) is to:

- Provide for the preservation and management of areas possessing recreational, natural, scenic, historic, cultural, archaeological, biological, geological, scientific, educational, community of other special features or values for the benefit and enjoyment of the public.
- Ensure, as far as possible, the survival of indigenous species of flora and fauna and the preservation of representative samples of natural ecosystems and landscapes.
- Ensure, as far as possible, the preservation of access for the public to and along the sea coast, lakeshores, riverbanks, and protecting such areas from unnecessary subdivision and development.

Recreation Reserves are set aside “...for the purpose of providing areas for the recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreational activities, including recreational tracks in the countryside” (Section 17 (1) Reserves Act 1977). However, “where scenic, historic, archaeological, biological, or natural features are present on the reserve, those features shall be managed and protected to the extent compatible with the principal or primary purpose of the reserve” (Subsection 17 (2) (b) Reserves Act 1977). Also, the value of the reserve “...as a soil, water, and forest conservation area shall be maintained.” (Subsection 17 (2) (d) Reserves Act 1977).

Local Purpose Reserves are set aside “...for the purpose of providing and retaining areas for such educational, community, social, or other local purposes...” (Section 23 (1) Reserves Act 1977). The Act also requires that, where compatible with the primary purpose of the reserve, other values shall be maintained and protected (as for Recreation Reserves, above).

Reserves management is also guided by the Guides and Policies in the Exercise of the Reserves Act 1977 (Department of Lands and Survey, Reserves Series No.2, 1978).

4.2 Resource Management Act 1991

The management of Esplanade Reserves is guided by the **Resource Management Act 1991**.

Esplanade Reserves are administered for the following purposes:

To contribute to the protection of conservation values by, in particular:

- *Maintaining or enhancing the natural functioning of the adjacent sea, river, or lake; or,*
- *Maintaining or enhancing water quality; or*
- *Maintaining or enhancing aquatic habitats; or*
- *Protecting the natural values associated with the reserve; or*
- *Mitigating natural hazards; and*

- *To enable public access to or along the sea, a river, or a lake; and*
 - *To enable public recreational use of the esplanade reserve and adjacent sea, river, or lake, where that use is compatible with conservation values.*
- (Subsections 229 (2)(a), (b), and (c) Resource Management Act 1991)

The Tasman District Council has prepared the **Tasman Resource Management Plan** to meet its obligations under the Resource Management Act 1991. The Council's obligations for resource management are set out in the Tasman Regional Policy Statement. The relevant general objectives for the provision and management of reserves and open space are:

- *Adequate area and distribution of a wide range of reserves and open spaces to maintain and enhance recreation, conservation, access, and amenity values (Objective 14.1.0); and*
 - *Efficient and effective use of open space and reserves to meet community needs for recreation and amenity (Objective 14.2.0); and*
 - *The conservation of those areas in the District which have significant natural and scientific values such as landform, ecosystems, natural character and heritage values (Objective 14.3.0); and,*
 - *The avoidance of significant adverse effects of activities and facilities on open space and recreational areas on the amenity values of surrounding areas (Objective 14.4.0).*
- (Chapter 14, Tasman Resource Management Plan)

4.3 Other Objectives for the Provision and Management of Reserves

Other relevant objectives for the provision and management of reserves in Tasman District are contained in the Tasman District Recreation Strategy, approved by the Tasman District Council in June 1996. The strategy provides an indication of recreation development priorities for the next ten years and identifies major recreation issues in the District. The guiding objectives of this strategy are listed as follows:

- *Provide recreation opportunities which meet the expressed needs and aspirations of present and future communities. Council is a signatory to "Healthy Communities"; and*
- *Ensure the equitable provision of recreational resources provided by the council; and*
- *Ensure that maximum community benefit is gained from recreational services offered within the resources available; and*
- *Promote community use of and participation in recreational activities in the District; and,*
- *Ensure some revenue generation from merit leisure services.*

5.0 GENERAL POLICIES FOR GOLDEN BAY WARD RESERVES

The following general policies for management of reserves in the Golden Bay Ward of Tasman District are set out in the Golden Bay Ward Reserves Management Plan (2003):

5.1 Reserve Acquisition

- 5.1.1 Acquire land through reserve contributions from subdivisions and by other means to meet the present and future recreational and amenity needs of residents and for the protection of natural, historic and archaeological values;
- 5.1.2 Give priority to the acquisition of land that complements or links existing reserves so as to buffer forest remnants or estuary and river margins, and to provide continuous public walkways and open space;
- 5.1.3 Ensure that land is set aside for reserves and open space in all parts of the Golden Bay Ward, to ensure all residents have easy access to local reserves;
- 5.1.4 Ensure that land acquired for reserves is of sufficient size, and is appropriately located, to protect the natural features of the land or to provide for public access;
- 5.1.5 Seek to acquire or manage land in partnership with other organizations to provide for the present and future recreational and amenity needs of residents of the District.
- 5.1.6 Give priority to the acquisition of land that supports rare or ecologically-valuable ecosystems or sites, in particular lowland forest, coastal vegetation, wetlands or geo-preservation sites.

5.2 Reserve Boundaries

- 5.2.1 Ensure that areas set aside as reserves have boundaries that are practical for reserve management and public use;
- 5.2.2 Seek equitable exchanges or purchase of adjoining land to improve reserve shape or to enable more effective reserve management;
- 5.2.3 Define reserve boundaries by fencing, planting, or other means, so that the extent of each reserve is clear to adjoining landholders and the public.

5.3 Reserve Monitoring

- 5.3.1 Regularly monitor the adequacy and effectiveness of reserve maintenance to ensure reserves are maintained to appropriate standards;
- 5.3.2 Monitor reserve use to determine whether uses are compatible with the primary purpose of reservation and to ensure that the reserves are adequately meeting community needs;
- 5.3.3 Monitor the natural, archaeological and historic values of reserves, especially threatened species of indigenous flora, fauna, and ecosystems, to ensure that

such values are adequately protected. Liaise with individuals, groups and other agencies (such as the Department of Conservation).

5.4 Management Plan Review and Amendment

- 5.4.1 Review the adequacy or appropriateness of the individual policies of this management plan in response to changing circumstances or the changing conservation, recreation, or amenity needs of the community;
- 5.4.2 Undertake a comprehensive review of this management plan within ten years of the adoption of this plan by Council;
- 5.4.3 Provide for public consultation, as required by the Reserves Act 1977, during the review of the plan or the review of individual policies within the plan;

5.5 Reserves Act 1977

- 5.5.1 Give precedence to the Reserves Act 1977 if there is any conflict between the policies of the Tata Beach Reserves Management Plan and the Act.

5.6 Reserves Bylaws

- 5.6.1 Give precedence to the policies in the Tata Beach Reserves Management Plan if there is any conflict between the Parks and Reserves Bylaws and this Plan;
- 5.6.2 Where an individual reserve has approved bylaws, give precedence to those bylaws in the management of that reserve, provided those bylaws are not incompatible with the general objectives of the Tata Beach Reserves Management Plan.

5.7 Public Access and Use

- 5.7.1 Ensure that reserves are freely available for use by individuals and groups on a casual basis, unless constrained by Council-approved events or activities;
- 5.7.2 Encourage multiple use of reserves and open space and recreation facilities where practical;
- 5.7.3 Ensure that fences, buildings, or other structures do not unnecessarily restrict foot access onto or across reserves;
- 5.7.4 Provide appropriate access, wherever practicable, for disabled persons to reserves and reserve facilities;
- 5.7.5 If necessary, restrict or prohibit activities that are in direct conflict with other reserve uses.
Explanation: Some activities, such as golf practice, can endanger other people and make reserve maintenance more difficult.

5.8 Vehicle Access and Parking

- 5.8.1 Prohibit motorized vehicle use on reserves unless:
 - permitted by individual reserve policies, or
 - on designated roadways and parking areas, or
 - vehicles are approved maintenance vehicles or emergency vehicles, or
 - vehicles are otherwise approved by Council for special events;

- 5.8.2 Provide adequate vehicle parking to cater for normal reserve use and, wherever possible, provide this parking on adjacent roads rather than on reserve land;
- 5.8.3 Restrict the use of bicycles and horses on reserves if such uses are in conflict with other activities.

5.9 Leases and Licences

- 5.9.1 Grant leases or licences for appropriate recreational or community use of reserves provided that:
- Where appropriate, the consent of the Minister of Conservation is first obtained
 - The use is compatible with the principal or primary purpose of the reserve
 - There is an established demand for the activity or structure proposed
 - The activity or structure does not conflict with the protection of the natural values of the reserve, and
 - The activity or structure does not conflict with other uses of the reserve;
- 5.9.2 Consult with the public over any proposals to grant leases or licences over reserves where such leases or licences are not already provided for in this plan;
- 5.9.3 Ensure that all occupations of reserves are authorized by leases or licences and are compatible with the Proposed Tasman Resource Management Plan;
- 5.9.4 Ensure that money received by the Council from the use or occupation of reserves is used for reserve management and development.

5.10 Commercial and Non-Commercial Activities

- 5.10.1 Permit commercial activities (trade, business or occupation) on reserve land only where compatible with the Reserves Act 1977, the General Policies of this management plan, and policies for the individual reserves. All commercial activities must be approved by Council, and be subject to General Policy 5.9 (above);
- 5.10.2 Generally permit non-commercial (not-for-profit) activities where such activities provide for or are associated with public use and are compatible with the primary purpose of the reserve.

5.11 Reserve Closure and Exclusive Use

- 5.11.1 Permit the exclusive use of recreation reserves for regular or occasional sporting or recreational events, subject to Council approval;
- 5.11.2 Close reserves (including Esplanade Reserves), or portions of reserves, for public use only when required for reserves maintenance or public safety.

5.12 Buildings and Structures

- 5.12.1 Prohibit the construction, or relocation, of buildings or structures on reserves unless they are:
- Compatible with the primary purpose of the reserve, and
 - Necessary to meet a demonstrated demand for public use, and
 - Permitted by the management policies for the reserve;

- 5.12.2 Require all new buildings or structures, or alterations to existing buildings or structures, to meet design standards specified by the Proposed Tasman Resource Management Plan and other relevant legislation;
- 5.12.3 Require all proposals to construct or relocate buildings or structures on reserves to be accompanied by an assessment showing how the building and its colour will be compatible with the protection of the open space and amenity values of the reserve;
- 5.12.4 Prohibit the abandonment of buildings or structures on reserve land without Council consent;
- 5.12.5 Remove abandoned or unused buildings or structures from reserve land.
- 5.12.6 Seek any costs incurred in the removal of abandoned buildings or structures from the former occupier or user of the building;

5.13 Toilet Facilities

- 5.13.1 Provide toilet facilities at all reserves where:
 - Organized sporting or recreational events are held regularly
 - Picnic facilities are provided
 - There is high public use
 unless adequate public toilet facilities are available nearby;
- 5.13.2 Ensure toilet wastes are disposed of into approved disposal systems;
- 5.13.3 Ensure that all toilet facilities are regularly cleaned and maintained;
- 5.13.4 Require organizers of activities on reserves without permanent toilet facilities, or where toilet facilities are inadequate for the anticipated use, to provide portable toilets for the duration of the activity.

5.14 Outdoor Furniture, Barbecues and Fires

- 5.14.1 Provide seating, picnic tables, and barbecues at reserves where there is a demonstrated public demand for such facilities;
- 5.14.2 Provide rubbish containers at reserves as required, and encourage a “take rubbish home” policy;
- 5.14.3 Ensure that all outdoor furniture, barbecues, and rubbish containers are well maintained and cleaned regularly;
- 5.14.4 Allow fires only in approved fireplaces or barbecue stands, and for authorised reserve maintenance, subject to any local or regional fire restrictions.
- 5.14.5 Consider the provision of gas or electric barbecues, instead of solid-fuel barbecues, at reserves with high fire risk and/or vulnerable vegetation.

5.15 Children’s Play Equipment

- 5.15.1 Provide children’s play equipment at a range of reserves in the Golden Bay Ward to ensure that children’s play areas are readily accessible to residents in all parts of the Ward;
Explanation: The Tasman District Recreation Strategy recommends one playground for every 1500 residents, spread evenly through suburban areas.

- 5.15.2 Construct children's play equipment to the appropriate safety standards and ensure that all children's play equipment complies with current building standards and has the required building consents;
- 5.15.3 Locate children's play equipment to:
- Minimize visual intrusion, and
 - Take advantage of natural contour, shade and shelter, and
 - Ensure sufficient space for other play activities, and
 - Ensure safe and convenient access to paths, roads, or parking;
- 5.15.4 Ensure that there are barriers, such as gardens or fencing, between children's play equipment and busy roads;
- 5.15.5 Ensure that all children's play equipment is safe, well maintained, and cleaned regularly.

5.16 Signs

- 5.16.1 Ensure that all reserves and open space areas have adequate signs;
- 5.16.2 Design and progressively introduce a standard sign for all Council-administered reserves in the Ward;
- 5.16.3 Ensure that signs erected on reserves include the reserve name, and information about appropriate activities and natural values at the reserve;
- 5.16.4 Prohibit commercial advertising or sponsorship signs on reserves, unless specifically permitted by individual reserve policy and approved by Council;
- 5.16.5 Ensure that all signs comply with the provisions of the Proposed Tasman Resource Management Plan, and are adequately maintained.

5.17 Fencing

- 5.17.1 Ensure that reserve boundaries are fenced where necessary to:
- Adequately define reserve boundaries
 - Prevent stock trespass
 - Prevent unauthorized vehicle access
 - Reduce risks in hazardous areas
 - Ensure public safety;
- 5.17.2 Design and progressively introduce a range of standard fence designs for all Council-administered reserves;
- 5.17.3 Ensure that all fences are adequately maintained;
- 5.17.4 Seek from adjoining landowners a contribution towards the costs of fencing on reserve boundaries and, where possible, create fencing covenants on reserves³.

5.18 Landscaping and Amenity Planting

- 5.18.1 Require all significant reserve development proposals to include a Council-approved landscape plan;

³ Also see the Fencing Act 1978

- 5.18.2 Limit the planting of high-maintenance flowerbeds and gardens to formal gardens and other similar areas;
- 5.18.3 Ensure that poisonous species are not planted adjacent to children's play equipment or play areas, but retain feature trees (such as kowhai) where they are already present at such sites;
- 5.18.4 Ensure that existing or potential plant pests (weeds) are not planted in reserves;
- 5.18.5 Include native species, propagated from plants native to the location, wherever possible in reserve planting programmes, including erosion-control plantings;
- 5.18.6 Plant more trees on reserves, where compatible with the purpose of the reserve and present uses;
- 5.18.7 Trim, remove and replace old or damaged trees that pose a significant safety risk, as determined by professional assessment where necessary;
- 5.18.8 Ensure that all Heritage Trees, such as those listed in the Proposed Tasman Resource Management Plan, are protected;
- 5.18.9 Ensure that any trees donated by the public for transplanting onto reserves are easily retrieved and appropriate to the reserve.

5.19 Plant and Animal Pest Control

- 5.19.1 Eradicate or contain plant and animal pests as required by the Tasman Regional Pest Management Strategy;
- 5.19.2 Undertake plant and animal pest control in reserves where such pests pose a threat to the natural values of the reserve or to public enjoyment of the reserve.
- 5.19.3 Coordinate pest control activities with pest control activities of the Department of Conservation wherever practical.

5.20 Habitat and Heritage Conservation

- 5.20.1 Ensure that areas of indigenous vegetation and wildlife habitat on reserves are protected, especially those areas adjoining the sea, streams, lakes, rivers, and on or adjacent to areas of karst;
- 5.20.2 Enhance, wherever possible, the habitat values of reserves as part of reserve maintenance and development;
- 5.20.3 Prohibit the removal of plants and animals (alive or dead) from reserves, including driftwood from foreshore areas;
- 5.20.4 Prohibit the unauthorised dumping of rubbish, including hard-fill and garden waste, in reserves.
- 5.20.5 Ensure that historic and archaeological resources are protected, especially identified historic and archaeological sites.

5.21 Public Safety

- 5.21.1 Ensure that all unsafe structures and equipment on reserves are removed, made safe, or clearly identified by signs;
- 5.21.2 Ensure that known hazards on or adjacent to reserves are adequately identified and significant risks to the public mitigated wherever appropriate and practical;
- 5.21.3 Prohibit the erection of permanent or temporary structures or equipment on reserves that are likely to result in injury to the public;
- 5.21.4 Prohibit the carrying or use of firearms or any other weapon on reserves, except those reserves where game bird hunting is permitted by individual reserve policies, or unless otherwise approved by the Council.

5.22 Camping

- 5.22.1 Prohibit overnight camping on reserves unless specifically permitted by reserve policies.

5.23 Domestic Animals

- 5.23.1 Restrict dogs in reserves as required by the Tasman District Council Dog Control Bylaw 1997;
*Explanation: The Tasman District Council Dog Control Bylaw 1997 requires that dogs be under control at all times, and under leash control in all public places except areas zoned Rural or Rural Residential in the Tasman Resource Management Plan.
Dogs may be prohibited at other sites by a Council resolution.*
- 5.23.2 Prohibit dogs at all Sports Grounds, within 10 m of picnic tables and children's play equipment at all reserves, and at other reserves where individual reserve policies prohibit dogs;
Explanation: This prohibition is required by the Tasman District Council Dog Control Bylaw. Dog exercise areas are also identified by individual reserve policies.
- 5.23.3 Prohibit the taking of domestic animals (other than dogs) onto reserves;
- 5.23.4 Restrict the use of horses and other riding animals on all reserves except where individual reserve policies allow horses.

5.24 Adjoining Land-uses

- 5.24.1 Ensure that adjoining land uses do not encroach on reserve land, and take action against landholders who deliberately encroach on reserve land;
- 5.24.2 Prohibit motorized vehicle access to adjoining land through reserve land unless authorized by Council;
- 5.24.3 Ensure that activities on reserves do not unduly affect the quiet enjoyment of neighbouring properties;
- 5.24.4 Consult with neighbouring residents where significant developments are proposed on adjoining reserve land;

- 5.24.5 Prohibit the disposal of garden or other waste from adjoining properties on reserves.

5.25 Community Involvement

- 5.25.1 Encourage community participation in reserve management and protection through management committees, support groups, or casual work parties;
Explanation: Management Committees comprise members elected by the public for a three-year term to assist the Council with reserve management on a voluntary basis.
- 5.25.2 Adequately service approved management committees and reserve support groups so as to allow the meaningful involvement of such groups in reserve maintenance and development;
- 5.25.3 Develop a protocol for community group involvement in reserve management and protection;
- 5.25.4 Liaise with reserve support groups over reserve development proposals.

5.26 Reservation and Classification

- 5.26.1 To reserve areas under Section 14 Reserves Act 1977, and classify areas as Local Purpose Reserve or Recreation Reserve under Section 16 of the Act as proposed by individual reserves policies, or as deemed appropriate by Council.
- 5.26.2 Consider revoking reserve status where it is considered that the land is no longer required for reserve purposes, or changing the classification of a reserve if the primary purpose or use of the reserve has changed, while taking account of the original purpose of reservation and in consultation with the original donor of the land if possible;
- 5.26.3 Ensure that, where a change in reserve classification or purpose is requested by another organization, that organization meets the cost of the reclassification process unless otherwise determined by Council;
- 5.26.4 Provide for public consultation over any proposed change of status, as required by the Reserves Act 1977;

6.0 GENERAL OBJECTIVES FOR TATA BEACH RESERVES

- 6.1 Provide and enhance public access to the sea, streams and other natural features.
- 6.2 Maintain and enhance the natural character of the coast.
- 6.3 Provide an adequate area, distribution, and range of reserves to maintain and enhance recreation, conservation, access, and amenity values in the Tata Beach settlement.
- 6.4 Ensure the efficient and effective use of reserves in the Tata Beach settlement to meet community needs for recreation and amenity.
- 6.5 Identify potential risks of coastal erosion and to plan use and development accordingly.
- 6.6 Adequately protect the significant natural and scientific values in the reserves of the Tata Beach settlement, such as landform, ecosystems, natural character, archaeological and heritage values.
- 6.7 Minimise the adverse environmental effects of activities and facilities in the reserves on the amenity values of surrounding activities.
- 6.8 Provide recreation opportunities which meet the needs and aspirations of the community.
- 6.9 Ensure that maximum community benefit is gained from recreational services offered within the resources available.
- 6.10 Recognise the ecological value of the coastal cliff communities and liaise with adjacent landowners over protection and management issues, including weed control.

7.0 SPECIFIC POLICIES FOR TATA BEACH RESERVES

7.1 Access to the Esplanade Reserve (Lot 30), south of the boat ramp

- 7.1.1 Remove the vehicle track south of the boat ramp and prevent vehicle access to this reserve.
- 7.1.2 Provide a grassed area suitable for pedestrian access at the back (eastern) edge of the reserve.
- 7.1.3 Protect and revegetate the sand behind the beach, as part of the Coast Care programme: re-fill eroded areas with sand, plant and care for appropriate sand-trapping plants, place sand-trapping fences, and place fences and boardwalks to prevent trampling of plants and sensitive areas of sand.

7.2 Access to the Esplanade Reserve (Lot 2), north of the boat ramp

- 7.2.1 Retain vehicle access along the existing formed track north of the boat ramp.
- 7.2.2 Install speed-control humps on this vehicle track to reduce vehicle speed and, if necessary, further restrict vehicle access during the hours of darkness.
- 7.2.3 Reduce the number of car parks along the dune, and rehabilitate those areas as part of the Coast Care programme.
- 7.2.4 Monitor public use (including vehicle use) of this area.

7.3 Car parking at the Recreation Reserve (Lot 14), near the boat ramp

- 7.3.1 Move the car parks adjacent to the dune south of the boat ramp several metres back from the existing dune and rehabilitate this area as part of the Coast Care programme.
- 7.3.2 Tidy the existing formed car park (on Lot 14), and provide a single designated disabled persons car park in this area.

7.4 Boat Ramp

- 7.4.1 Retain the boat ramp and repair any asset-threatening coastal erosion as soon as possible after the erosion event by a combination of beach replenishment, fencing and revegetation using sand-binding plants.

7.5 Car parking at the Recreation Reserves (Lots 15 and 33), Petersen Road

- 7.5.1 Continue to allow informal parking of cars and boat-trailers on the open grassed part of these reserves adjacent to Petersen Road.
- 7.5.2 Do not develop formed car or boat-trailer parking on these reserves.
- 7.5.3 Monitor reserves use, including car and boat-trailer parking, in this area, especially during busy periods, to determine whether there is sufficient congestion to justify the development of further parking in the area.

7.6 Management of beachfront Esplanade Reserves (Lots 2, 9 and 30) and Recreation Reserve (Part Lot 3)

- 7.6.1 Reduce the width of mown grass along the beach ridge and add more sand-binding plants in the un-mown areas, to encourage a slow accumulation of sand to form a more natural dune.
- 7.6.2 Promote the stabilisation and build-up of the beach above the high water level by establishing and maintaining a dense vegetation cover, using exotic and native coastal species as appropriate, with an emphasis on dense growing sand-binding plants, and with a scattering of taller native, salt tolerant shrubs and trees.
- 7.6.3 Provide picnic tables, but do not provide barbecues, on the beachfront.
- 7.6.4 Prohibit the removal of washed-up tree trunks and branches from the foreshore.
- 7.6.5 Limit the length of time that boats may be stored on the reserves to a maximum of 14 consecutive days.

7.7 Access to the Esplanade Reserves (Lots 10 and 32), around the estuary

- 7.7.1 Define the landward boundary of the esplanade reserve more clearly.
- 7.7.2 Manage and enhance existing vegetation to favour naturally occurring native species.
- 7.7.3 Investigate the practicality and cost of developing a formed walking track around the estuary on reserve land and, if practical, construct the track.

7.8 Access to the Local Purpose Reserve (Lot 5), around the peninsula

- 7.8.1 Investigate the practicality, cost and environmental impact of developing a formed walking track around the peninsula on reserve land.
Note: This is presently a low priority.

7.9 Coast Care Programme on Esplanade Reserves (Lots 2 and 30)

- 7.9.1 Continue the Coast Care programme and, if there is sufficient public enthusiasm and support, extend the programme to cover additional areas.

7.10 Cornwall Place Reserve (Recreation Reserves, Lots 1 and 2)

- 7.10.1 Improve the surface of the existing car park, ideally using reinforced grass.
- 7.10.2 Monitor and control weeds throughout the reserve and further stabilise the stream banks with native riparian plants.
- 7.10.3 Investigate the need for and the feasibility of providing public toilets in this reserve.
- 7.10.4 The existing boat shed shall remain at the pleasure of Council.

7.11 Cornwall Haven Reserve (Recreation Reserve, Lot 14)

- 7.11.1 Manage the taller vegetation to achieve a balance between providing shelter for the reserve and retaining views to the sea from Cornwall Place and from the houses overlooking the reserve.

7.12 Wetland Reserve (Local Purpose Reserve, Lot 42)

- 7.12.1 Manage and enhance the wetland reserve by monitoring the vegetation, sediment build-up and water quality, and take steps as necessary to protect its ecological health.

7.13 Commercial Activities

- 7.13.1 Commercial activities are not considered appropriate on the Tata Beach reserves. Proposals for such uses will be directed to areas of adjacent land, such as road reserve.

7.14 Reserves Development Plan

- 7.14.1 Prepare a Development Plan for the Tata Beach area, covering issues that affect the use and enjoyment of the Tata Beach reserves, such as:
- Cycling and walking access at Tata Beach and to Tata Beach from nearby communities such as Ligar Bay.
 - The importance (or otherwise) of having a boat ramp at Tata Beach and the appropriate size and standard of the boat ramp if it is retained.
 - Ways of improving protection for wildlife in the area, such as spotted shags and banded rail.
 - The desirability and feasibility of designating parts of Tata Beach as alcohol-free areas.
 - The number, location and standard of signs at Tata Beach.
 - The locations on the beachfront where the establishment of taller vegetation is appropriate, and which species are appropriate to plant.
 - The formation of a pedestrian/cycle path along the Esplanade Reserve south of the boat ramp.