



Ōpōtiki District Council



Coastal Reserves Management Plan March 2012

Prepared By: Mike Naude
Senior Project Manager

: Tracy Talbot
Senior Parks Project Manager

Reviewed By: Michele Frey
Recreation Planner

Approved for Issue for Client: Mike Naude
Manager Design and Project Management

Approved By: Mike Houghton
Manager Parks, Recreation and Tourism,
Ōpōtiki District Council

Opus International Consultants Limited
Whakatane
Concordia House, Pyne Street

PO Box 800
Whakatane, New Zealand

Telephone: +64 7 308 0139
Facsimile: +64 7 308 4757

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Preface

The Reserve Management Plan Process

It is a requirement of Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977 (RA) that the administering body of recreation and other reserves prepares a Reserves Management Plan (RMP) for individual or groups and categories of reserves. The RMP's are required to be kept under continuous review (Section 41 (4) Reserves Act).

Through the preparation of a RMP for a reserve or reserves, the administering body of the reserve(s) is able to establish the values present and determine policy for the day-to-day administration and use of the reserve or reserves. The objective is to achieve a desirable mix of the values and uses.

The RMP planning process also provides a way of determining community preferences and establishing the best means of providing for community wishes and expectations. A RMP should be treated as a community document. This gives the community certainty and assurance concerning the function and management of each reserve or group of reserves. This is an essential ingredient of good management planning.

The RMP provides the reserve administering body with a framework for decision making concerning the day-to-day management of the reserves included in the RMP.

The process of preparing a reserve management plan is established by the RA and comprises a number of steps including public consultation. The steps are detailed as follows:

- Notification that a Management Plan is to be prepared and a call for initial public suggestions with regard to the formation of the plan.
- Preparation of the Draft Management Plan for public consultation. This process also includes inviting submissions from residents, interest groups and Council Committees and Community Boards. Discussions with Statutory Authorities, including Environment Bay of Plenty and the Department of Conservation.
- Notification of the draft plan and calling of written submissions
- Council hearing of submissions and decisions regarding changes to the plan.
- Final Plan adopted by Council. The plan is used in the management of reserves and is available to the public.

The Ōpōtiki District

The Ōpōtiki District covers an area of 3,098km² and has approximately 160 km of scenic coastline that supports a number of important fauna and flora habitats.

The 2003 Population Census data estimates the population of the District to be 9,530 people. A summary of the demographic trends as detailed in the ODC LTCCP is listed as follows:

- The Ōpōtiki District has 0.2% of New Zealand's total population.
- 57% of the population belong to the Maori ethnic group with the balance of the population being of European or other descent.

The District is represented by three Iwi groups comprising numerous hapū. The three iwi groups are Whakatōhea , Ngāitai and Te Whānau A Apanui.

Iwi and hapū will be consulted on an individual basis to determine how kaitiakitanga can be recognised and integrated in the management of the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources on coastal reserves in the Ōpōtiki region.

The Ōpōtiki Coastal Reserves

The Coastal Reserves administered by the Ōpōtiki District Council (ODC) comprise a number of reserves located around the eastern margins of the Ōhiwa Harbour and reserves located along the Eastern Bay of Plenty coastline towards Waihou Bay in the east.

The coastal reserves relating to this Reserves Management Plan (RMP) are designated as Recreation Reserves and Local Purpose Reserves (LP Road, Esplanade, Conservation, and Plantation). A number of these reserves contain important ecological, physical, and cultural values which provide the setting for a range of uses including both formal and informal recreation. The reserves provide recreation and access to beaches for local residents and visitors to the District. Their importance in fulfilling a recreational role is highlighted during the summer months with the influx of large numbers of holiday makers and day trippers to the reserves and beaches. The approximate land coverage of the coastal reserves is 127.5712704 hectares (ha).

The distribution of the coastal reserve is detailed in the following table and the appended maps.

Location	Hectares (Ha)
Ruatuna Road/Ōhiwa Harbour Recreation Reserve and Esplanade Reserves	4.698248709
Ōhiwa Spit Reserves	34.957410044
Ōhiwa Beach (Bryan's) Reserves	13.69864184

Waiotahe Estuary Recreation and Esplanade Reserves	13.18106302
Ōpōtiki Harbour Reserve and Te Ngaio Recreation Reserves.	42.040475
Hukuwai Beach Recreation Reserves	5.090619922
Omaio Recreation (Hoani Waititi Memorial) Reserve	4.1304398
Te Kaha Recreation Reserve	6.123684378
Whanarua Bay Recreation Reserves	2.555013156
Waihau Bay Recreation Reserves	2.508542991
Total	128.98414

The primary management objectives for the Coastal Reserves are:

- Preservation of the coastal environment.
- The provision of access to the coast.
- The provision of recreational facilities that support public use of the reserves.

The RMP should be read in conjunction with District and Regional Plans. These plans include ODC District Plan, the Bay of Plenty Regional Coastal Environment Plan, the Bay of Plenty Regional Water And Land Management Plan and the Parks and Reserves Policy Document.

This plan does not include land owned by the Department of Conservation or the beach and coastal foredune system outside the boundaries of the recreation reserves. Issues relating to the fore shore are considered in this plan where the dunes are within the recreational reserve boundaries.

Structure of the Plan

This RMP comprises four parts:

Part One (1) provides a description of each reserve including *inter alia* location, access, reserve history, flora and fauna, cultural aspects, concept and site plans.

Part Two (2) describes the statutory framework and process for implementing the RMP.

Part Three (3) provides the relevant policies applicable to the management of the reserves. This part should be read in conjunction with the Ōpōtiki District Council Reserves Policies document dated July 2009.

Part Four (4) provides a Glossary of Terms relating to policy interpretation.