

**AGENDA FOR A MEETING OF THE WAITEMATA HARBOUR FORESHORE RESERVES
MANAGEMENT PLAN JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE TO BE HELD AT WAITAKERE
CENTRAL, 6 HENDERSON VALLEY ROAD, HENDERSON, WAITAKERE,
ON FRIDAY, 25 MAY 2007, COMMENCING AT 3.00 PM**

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1 APOLOGIES



2 URGENT BUSINESS

Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides that where an item of business is not on the agenda, it may only be dealt with at the meeting if:

- (i) the Subcommittee by resolution so decides; and
- (ii) the Chairman has explained at the beginning of the meeting (when open to the public) that the item will be raised for discussion and decision, why the item is not on the agenda, and why it cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.

The Subcommittee may make a decision on a matter determined to be urgent.

NOTE: Urgent Business need not be dealt with now and may be delayed until later in the meeting.



3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Meeting Minutes - 23 May 2006

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Meeting of the Waitemata Harbour Foreshore Reserves Management Plan Joint Subcommittee held on 23 May 2006, as circulated, be taken as read and now be confirmed.



4 DRAFT WAITEMATA HARBOUR FORESHORE RESERVES MANAGEMENT PLAN

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to present the draft Waitemata Harbour Foreshore Reserves Management Plan to the Subcommittee, and to seek approval from the Subcommittee to publicly notify the draft Waitemata Harbour Foreshore Reserves Management Plan for submissions. A full copy of the draft Waitemata Harbour Foreshore Reserves Management Plan will be distributed separately to the Subcommittee.

BACKGROUND

The management of all reserves is governed by the Reserves Act 1977, (the Act). Under this Act, Council is required to prepare management plans for all reserves vested in its care, in conjunction with the consultation process set down in section 41 of the Act. This statutory framework provides a minimum requirement upon which to develop a more specific process, tailored for each individual plan.

The Parks Planning section of Waitakere City Council is responsible for the preparation of Reserve Management Plans. The Reserve Management Plan programme allows for two new Reserve Management Plans to be undertaken in each financial year. One comprehensive or group plan (for the local reserves of a ward, group of Green Network reserves, or esplanade reserves), and one single plan for a City-wide reserve.

Reserve Management Plans for City-wide reserves are governed by the City Development Committee, whilst plans for local and neighbourhood reserves are overseen by the appropriate Community Board or Boards.

The Reserve Management Plan programme for 2005/2006 includes one comprehensive plan for a group of local reserves. This is the Waitemata Harbour Foreshore Reserves Management Plan, which covers all local esplanade reserves along the foreshore of the Waitemata Harbour from Whenuapai to New Lynn, incorporating 74 reserves in total.

In November 2005, a Council Subcommittee was established with delegated authority to oversee the passage of the Plan. Because the Waitemata Harbour Foreshore Reserves span three wards, the Subcommittee was established under the relevant Community Boards. The Subcommittee consists of two Members of three Community Boards, one Member from the City Development Committee and one Member from Te Taumata Runanga. The Subcommittee is responsible for all decisions required for the Plan on behalf of Council. This includes:

- approval of the public notification process for preliminary submissions;
- approval of the public notification process for draft Plans;
- the hearing of submissions to the draft Plan;
- decisions on any amendments based on the submissions; and
- the recommendation that the amended Plan be adopted by Council and the election of a representative to sign off the final Plan.

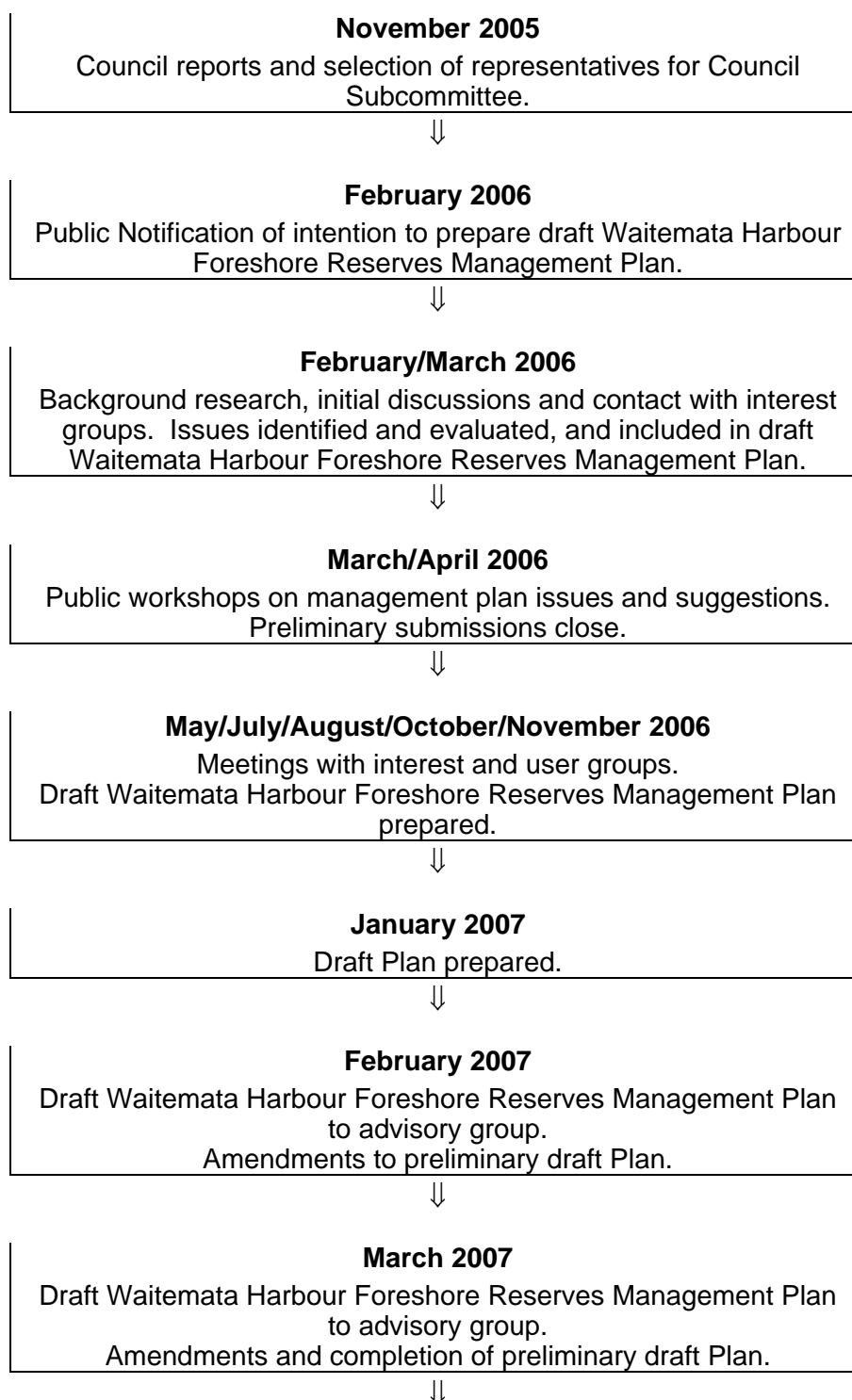
An Advisory Group was established to oversee the development of the draft Waitemata Harbour Foreshore Reserves Management Plan in October 2005. The role of an Advisory Group is to offer specialist expertise and experience relevant to the respective Reserve Management Plan being prepared. The Advisory Group for the Waitemata Harbour Foreshore Reserves Management Plan consists of the members of the Subcommittee, relevant Council officers and representatives of the community and other interested parties.

The intention to prepare a Reserve Management Plan for the local reserves along the Waitemata Foreshore was publicly notified in February 2006. A preliminary consultation period was undertaken from February 2006 to April 2007. Thirty-seven written submissions were received. Additional consultation has included meetings with individual user and interest groups, and iwi consultation.

During this period, Wildlands Consultants were commissioned to undertake an Ecological Assessment across the reserves.

The Advisory Group has met to consider the issues raised from the first round of submissions, the additional consultation, and the ideas and suggestions raised in the preliminary draft Waitemata Harbour Foreshore Reserves Management Plan. After recommended amendments were incorporated to the draft Waitemata Harbour Foreshore Reserves Management Plan from the Advisory Group, the Advisory Group has recommended that the draft Plan be presented to the Subcommittee for their approval to publicly notify the Plan for the second round of submissions.

The detailed programme proposed for the draft Waitemata Harbour Foreshore Reserves Management Plan is outlined in the following chart. There is an opportunity for the Subcommittee to have input into this programme at this meeting should they wish to.





STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The Waitemata Harbour Foreshore Reserves Management Plan is being prepared within the context of the Waitakere City Council's Strategic Priorities and Platforms. The strategic platforms particularly relevant to the Waitemata Harbour Foreshore Reserves Management Plan are the Green Network, Urban and Rural Villages, Strong Communities and Three Waters.

The 2020 vision for the Green Network is that *"the Waitakere Ranges will be permanently protected; there will be a network of bush and trees from the Ranges, through town centres and suburbs, to the coasts, bringing the natural world into people's everyday lives and filling the streams and forests with life."*

The Waitemata Harbour Foreshore Reserves provide a significant opportunity to implement the Green Network along one of the City's major harbours, through the development of ecological corridors, and through providing public access to existing outstanding vegetation areas and access to the coastline.

The 2020 vision in regards to Urban and Rural Villages is for *"town centres to be thriving, providing exciting options for people to work live and play. Public facilities, streets and places are alive and busy."*

The Waitemata Harbour Foreshore Reserves provides areas of green open spaces, which are an important part of the enhancement of the overall fabric of the City. They also provide for physical and visual access to the coastline.

The 2020 vision for Strong Communities is that *“people are active, healthy and content. They feel safe and there is a strong sense of community, we enjoy our diversity of lifestyles and people.”*

The Waitemata Harbour Foreshore Reserves are of importance to this strategic platform, as they have the potential to provide for a community focus and offer recreational opportunities. The Waitemata Harbour Foreshore Reserves can reflect community identity, contribute to sense of place, as well as providing an opportunity for community stewardship of reserves.

The 2020 Vision for Three Waters is that *“Waitakere takes an innovative approach in managing drinking water supply, wastewater and stormwater together, under the heading of the Three Waters.”*

The Waitemata Harbour Foreshore Reserves are important to this strategic platform, as the reserves carry stormwater into the harbour environment, and offer an opportunity for designing innovative management approaches in regard to stormwater and outfall structures.

The Waitemata Harbour Foreshore Reserves Management Plan is being prepared in the context of the draft Parks and Open Space Strategy (an update of the 1999 Parks Strategy), which provides guidelines on the management of parks within the City. The objectives and policies outlined in the draft Waitemata Harbour Foreshore Reserves Management Plan are guided by the objectives of the Parks Strategy. The Parks Strategy aims to improve the quality of parks and provide parks services in a fair and equitable way for Waitakere communities, within financial constraints.

The Waitemata Harbour Foreshore Reserves Management Plan is also being prepared in the context of the Waitakere City Council Leisure Strategy.

ISSUES

The Waitemata Harbour Foreshore Reserves are a group of local parks that play an integral role within the communities that surround them, through providing community identity and belonging. The reserves provide opportunities for people to engage with panoramic views of the harbour environment, and to experience coastal ecological areas. This interest and values of the reserves are reflected in the written submissions received during the first round of public consultation.

A1-A86 A full copy of all the submissions received is attached at pages A1-A86.

A87-A92 A summary of the submission issues is attached at pages A87-A92.

Issues raised in written submissions included the need to develop recreational water access facilities for both boats and rowing/kayak activities, clarification of areas of reserve land along the foreshore, development of new water access facilities in areas of deep water, and to ensure that boat ramps, jetties, park facilities and seawalls are maintained and improved upon.

The general impression gained from most submissions was that the reserves are of importance for communities. Most submitters stated that the reserves should be planted with native vegetation to encourage wildlife, while retaining views out to the harbour. Access to the foreshore should be maintained and created through reserves, along with cycle ways and coastal walkways. Concern was expressed in relation to the expansive areas of weed infestation. Acknowledgement of community groups that are involved in the reserves was also raised as important.

The main issues raised by sports clubs and interest groups were clarification around Waitakere City Council and Auckland Regional Council jurisdiction of structures along the foreshore, increased opportunities to access the water from reserves, security at night and the problem of 'hoons', lighting, future expansion of clubrooms, parking, promotion of clubs in the communities, and that consultation should occur with a wide cross section of the community.

The issues raised in the preliminary submission process were discussed with the Advisory Group. Related issues that arose from such discussions included: weed control, functionality of planting, including the community in restoration of the reserves, including groups such as Keep Waitakere Beautiful, education of the community in regard to dumping of organic and inorganic material in reserves, pest management in reserves, that polices from the relevant previous Reserve Management Plans are incorporated in this management plan, the scale of encroachments on reserve land (in particular Span Farm), the clarification around City-wide reserves that also lie adjacent to the Waitemata Harbour, encouragement of community stewardship, and the importance of the contribution of the reserves to sense of place for local communities.

The draft Waitemata Harbour Foreshore Reserves Management Plan has been developed in consideration of these submissions and comments.

The objectives and policies included in the draft Waitemata Harbour Foreshore Reserves Management Plan allow for the investigation of areas of new water access facilities, and that there is a balance between numbers of boat ramps and jetties. Signage is proposed at all reserve entrances to ensure that the status of public land is clear. The need to liaise with Auckland Regional Council on the management issues in regard to coastal structures has also been considered.

The reserves have been prioritised in the management Plan in terms of ecological significance. Reserves with stands of outstanding and significant vegetation are considered to be of high priority for ecological restoration planting, due to the potential to form ecological corridors and to buffer such vegetation. It is also proposed that planting should be designed in a manner that both restores habitat, and retains views out to the harbour. Weed control has been prioritised for those reserves that contain invasive environmental weeds, and contain pockets of outstanding or significant vegetation. Pest control has been prioritised in those areas of significant adjacent habitat.

Coastal walkways are proposed in areas that have the potential to link to existing walkway infrastructure, such as existing bridges and walkways. Other issues such as topography and where reserves form a continuous link were taken into consideration. High-density areas of urban residential development, where reserves are underutilised, offer opportunities for community engagement. There is an opportunity to develop a heritage trail to link to Carders and Clarks brickworks, a key archaeological site on the reserves. The proposal for a walkway in the Span Farm area is an attempt to deal with the encroachment issues in that area.

Community stewardship of reserves, through community involvement in projects on reserves and prioritising those areas where this may be lacking, has also been incorporated within the objectives and policies of the Reserve Management Plan. Interpretation of significant ecological areas within the harbour, as well as within reserves is key to this. Increasing the access potential to reserves is a key component of strengthening sense of place characteristics for communities. Individual club requests have been incorporated into the policies for particular reserves where possible.

It is now proposed to publicly notify the draft Waitemata Harbour Foreshore Reserves Management Plan in June 2007 for a further two-month submission period as required under the Reserves Act 1977. These submissions will be brought back to the Subcommittee with associated suggested changes to be made to the draft Plan, as outlined in the timeline above.

RESOURCES

\$110,000 has been allocated in the 2006/2007 Annual Plan to continue the Reserve Management Plan programme for Waitakere City, which includes the draft Waitemata Harbour Foreshore Reserves Management Plan and associated professional reports and preparation costs.

Funding for development works suggested within the Reserve Management Plan will be considered and established through future Long Term Council Community Plans.

CONCLUSION

The process of preparing the draft Waitemata Harbour Foreshore Reserves Management Plan began with public notification of the intention to prepare the draft Waitemata Harbour Foreshore Reserves Management Plan in February 2006. By the close of submissions in April 2006, 37 written submissions were received. Meetings were held with interest and user groups of the reserves in October and November 2006.

The draft Waitemata Harbour Foreshore Reserves Management Plan has been developed with consideration of this consultation. A preliminary draft has been reviewed by the Advisory Group, and comments from that meeting and previous Advisory Group meetings have been taken into account in the development of the draft Waitemata Harbour Foreshore Reserves Management Plan.

It is now proposed to publicly notify the draft Waitemata Harbour Foreshore Reserves Management Plan in June 2007 for a two-month submission period, as required under the Reserves Act 1977.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the information be received.
2. That the draft Waitemata Harbour Foreshore Reserves Management Plan be approved for public notification.

Report prepared by Carol Drinnan: Reserves Management Planner.

