

# **LE BONS BAY RECREATION RESERVE**

## **MANAGEMENT PLAN**



**Banks Peninsula District Council 2006**

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This management plan was prepared for the Banks Peninsula District Council by Chris Todd with assistance from Nina Harrison. The General Policies were prepared by Rob Greenaway & Associates.



## 1.0 Executive Summary

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Le Bons Bay Domain is a valuable and well-run community asset. Its maintenance and development is undertaken by local volunteers, whose contribution should be supported with appropriate resources.

The priorities for the reserve during the life of this plan are:

- To construct a toilet and shower block and associated services on the back of the hall;
- To better identify and promote the reserve to visitors;
- To provide for organised groups of overnight visitors outside of peak season and statutory long weekends;
- To evaluate and limit the impact of overnight stays on the domain and surrounding area;
- To continue managing the plantation for timber and shelter; and
- To ensure that all practicable steps are taken to minimize the risk of fire.

## 2.0 Introduction

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Under the Banks Peninsula District Council (BPDC) Plan, the 'anticipated environmental results' for recreation reserves are:

- The maintenance and enhancement of the recreational and natural amenity values of reserves;
- The control of development and the impacts of public use of reserves, in a manner that ensures that their character is enhanced or remains substantially unchanged;
- That development and activities in recreation reserves do not create significant adverse effects on the amenity values of adjoining sites.

The BPDC Reserves Strategy<sup>1</sup> identifies five key values that should be provided for in the management of reserves. These values, identified also by the *Reserves Act 1977*, are recreation, landscape, heritage, ecology, and culture. The weight given to each depends on the degree to which each is present or can be provided for in a reserve.

The overall objectives for Le Bons Bay Reserve are therefore:

- To provide suitable amenities to enable the proper use and enjoyment and of the reserve.
- To identify, preserve and where appropriate enhance the existing recreational, landscape, heritage, ecological, and cultural values and features of the reserve.
- To preserve and enhance the scenic and spatial values that contribute to the reserve's attractiveness.
- To ensure that any new activities in the reserve do not unduly compromise the existing use, enjoyment and amenity of the reserves.
- To ensure that any development on the reserve, such as buildings, facilities and car parks, should not be located or be of a design or scale that detracts from any recognised use, values or amenity of the land or of adjoining sites.

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<sup>1</sup> Rob Greenaway and Associates 2002

## 3.0 Plan Structure

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The management plan is divided into;

- Background information about the reserve's location, description, history, context, and management structure;
- The management of vegetation and the reserve environment;
- The management of structures, services and facilities, and;
- The management of reserve use.

The Council's *General Policies for Reserves* (by Rob Greenaway and Associates) is a separate document that should be read in conjunction with this management plan. Where any issue on a reserve is addressed by both the *General Policies* and the management plan, then the particular policies in the management plan take precedence. Where a management plan is silent or incomplete on an area of policy, the *General Policies* shall apply automatically.

## 4.0 Background Information

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### 4.1 Legal Classification

<b>Gazette notice:</b>	NZ Gaz 1979 p. 2815
<b>Legal description:</b>	Res 4665 Blk VI Okains SD
<b>Land area:</b>	4.0468 ha
<b>Classification and status:</b>	Recreation Reserve

### 4.2 Location & Access

Le Bons Bay is an outer bay situated on the north-eastern flanks of Banks Peninsula. It is approximately 1.5 hours drive from Christchurch via State Highway 75 and the Summit Road. Vehicle access to the reserve is from a metal road approximately 200m from the end of Le Bons Bay Beach Road. There is also a pedestrian right of way to the reserve from Rue De La Mer in the adjacent subdivision.

### 4.3 Description & Landscape Character

Le Bons Bay is a picturesque, deeply incised bay with steep hillsides, sculpted rocky headlands and a safe, sandy swimming beach. The valley contains a significant amount of remnant native vegetation, adding to its attractiveness. The bay enjoys a warm, sheltered aspect with rainfall averaging 350mm per year.

The domain is situated between the Le Bons Bay Stream, which runs along its south-eastern boundary, a subdivision of holiday homes on its north-western side, sand dunes and beach to its north-east and farm land behind to the south-east. The reserve was developed originally from leveled sand dunes, with the resultant soils very free draining and the only reliable grass growing season from March to October.

The dunes that bound the north-east and south-east perimeters are planted with a mature woodlot of pine trees, recently planted native species and marram grass. The climate is modified by the woodlot trees that shelter the domain from the prevailing winds and raise the temperature considerably. The dunes are fragile and need to be protected from indiscriminate

vehicle access. They are also subject to unpredictable river movements and coastal erosion during high seas.

The domain is a multi purpose recreation resource that serves primarily the permanent and regular holiday residents of Le Bons Bay, but also new visitors to the area. It contains a number of buildings and structures: The community hall was built in 1981 (replacing the existing pavilion) from timber milled off the reserve and contains a kitchen, ablution block and main hall. It has two water supplies (one for drinking, one for ablutions), power and its own septic tank. There are two tennis courts, with a new perimeter fence erected in 2001. A children's play area near the tennis courts contains a diverse range of playground equipment suitable for the 3-7 age group. The area surrounding it has been landscaped and planted with native plants. A flying fox approximately 50m long and constructed (to Australasian safety standards) in 2001 begins near the eastern corner of the hall. It leads into a perimeter running track with a fitness / challenge course.

Concrete block BBQ's with picnic tables, set into a landscaped area with native plantings, is regularly mowed to enhance the amenity of the area and reduce the fire risk.

#### **4.4 History**

The first domain board was established at a public meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 1916 in the public hall. The earliest written record of the reserve held in the Le Bons Bay Memorial Library is from the NZ Gazette No. 44, 12<sup>th</sup> June 1930 and records that 10 acres had been set aside as a domain.

A considerable amount of labour and money was spent to establish a grassed playing field. In May 1928 the Le Bons Bay Football Club (which wound up in 1948) approached the Domain Board for permission to level a piece of the domain for a football ground, offering their labour free of charge. In March 1933 the Le Bons Bay Cricket Club added their help to spread soil over the sand to make a success of the ground. In excess of 400 yards of soil were carted from roadsides, spread onto the domain, leveled and sown in grass. In 1947 a small pavilion was built by local people and used solely by the Cricket Club.

The Akaroa District Council formed a road along the beachfront in the early 1950's, giving better access to the domain. During the mid 1950's more ground was leveled and two tennis courts constructed, again using free labour. Pine trees were planted over the years to stabilize the dunes and as a source of revenue for the domain.

The need arose for a community hall in Le Bons Bay and in 1981 local residents formed a committee, milled timber from local logs with the help of two retired builders, and constructed the existing hall. This provided new facilities for the Cricket Club, so the old pavilion was removed. As well as community use, groups such as the army and school parties used the hall and domain facilities for overnight and extended stays.

The BBQ and children's playground were established in the 1990's and the flying fox and fitness / challenge course in 2001.

#### **4.5 Administration & Management**

The Le Bons Bay Reserve Board, an elected body under the Banks Peninsula District Council, is responsible for the control and management of Le Bons Bay Domain. The current board has been elected for a three year term ending in Nov 2007 and is made up of the following members:

- *J. Rolley (Chairperson)*
- *A. Dalglish (Secretary/ Treasurer)*
- *J. Inwood*
- *L. Inwood*
- *F. Campbell*
- *N. O'Keefe*
- *G. ten Hove*

- S. DeVries
- B. Carter
- P. DeLatour
- A. Rogers
- B. White

Income for the reserve is generated mainly through hire of the hall and the sale of timber and firewood. Although timber sales are helpful to fund capital projects, the burden of tree maintenance, felling and processing through to saleable timber falls entirely on local voluntary labour.

## 4.6 Regional Context

Le Bons Bay, along with Okains Bay over the next headland, is one of the few safe sandy beaches on Banks Peninsula. It is generally quiet and uncrowded, whereas Okains Bay receives more intensive use due to its large beachside camping ground.

The domain is highly valued and well-used, especially by local residents and holidaymakers, since casual visitors tend to be drawn to the beach rather than the reserve. It provides a space protected from the wind and is used mainly for local events, passive recreation and informal sporting activities such as tennis and ball games. It also provides a valuable buffer to further coastal development.

## 5.0 Management of the Reserve Environment

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### 5.1 Vegetation Management

The north-eastern and south-eastern sides of the reserve contain an extensive pine forest, planted to stabilise the dunes. The plantation is managed for timber and firewood to help finance capital developments at the reserve. The main risk both to and from the forest is fire. A double avenue of Lombardy Poplars is planted along the south-western boundary, with a smaller stand near the reserve entrance. Some of those in the avenue are dead or unstable. A selection of native trees and shrubs are planted around the children's playground and the BBQ and picnic areas.



Figure 1: Native species planted around the Picnic/ BBQ area



Figure 2: Stand of poplars along SW boundary.

The committee plan to renew the playing field turf in the near future by direct drilling. It is usually so dry that it needs cutting only in spring. Occasionally a mob of sheep is used to clean up the reserve. There are few weeds in the reserve, with lupin sprayed occasionally by committee members or Council contractors.

#### **Objectives:**

*To manage the reserve vegetation for passive enjoyment, wind shelter, timber and the enhancement of native flora and fauna.*

**Policies:**

1. See also General Reserve Policies 5.8 Tree Control, 5.12 Fire Control and 7.4 Tree Planting on Reserves.
2. The proceeds of wood disposed of from felling and pruning operations will be in favour firstly of reserve development and maintenance, and secondly of other Council-approved local projects. Timber that is not saleable may be taken for personal firewood use with the prior approval of the Committee, but must not be on-sold.
3. Restrict pine trees to the areas where they are growing already.

**Implementation:**

1. Fell or trim dead or unstable trees.
2. Thin and prune the pine plantation to manage for timber, wind shelter, recreation and the minimization of flammable litter.
3. When planting or replanting amenity areas, give priority to using locally-sourced native plants.
4. Control noxious plants and woody weeds, especially lupin.
5. If necessary, rip the roots of the poplar trees to protect the tennis court surface.
6. Improve the turf quality by direct-drilling with drought-tolerant grass species, fertilizing and mowing as required.

## 5.2 Erosion

Le Bons Bay Stream runs alongside the south-eastern edge of the reserve. It constantly changes its course and is currently cutting back into the sand dunes. This, combined with high tides, could eat further into reserve land. Although this is a natural process and manageable to an extent by avoiding development in affected areas, if the domain proper is threatened, it may be worth investigating river protection works. Four wheel drive vehicles can exacerbate erosion by driving on the dunes.

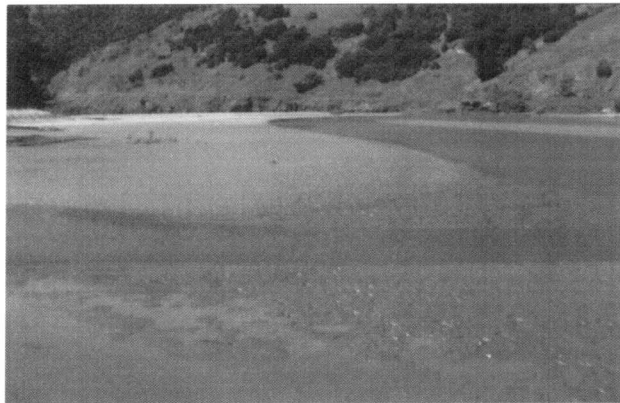


Figure 3: Tidal section of Le Bons Bay Stream flowing along the reserve's northern boundary.

**Objectives:**

*To firstly avoid and then if practicable, mitigate damage to the domain, its facilities and adjacent areas caused by erosion and indiscriminate vehicular usage.*

**Implementation:**

1. Avoid locating permanent structures in areas known to be erosion-prone.
2. Maintain a 'buffer' zone of less-developed land or forest around the south-eastern and north-eastern sides of the reserve to accommodate the interplay between the stream,



- the sand dunes and the coastline.
3. To consult with Environment Canterbury (ECAN) river engineers about any practicable measures the Committee could take to avoid or mitigate erosion or excessive damage to the domain and adjacent areas.

## **6.0 Management of Services, Structures & Facilities**

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### **Overall Objectives:**

1. *To maintain, develop and enhance the Le Bons Bay Reserve for the benefit of the local community and visitors to the area.*
2. *To ensure facilities within the reserve remain in a safe and operable condition and meet applicable safety standards.*
3. *To ensure that any new structures and extensions are aesthetically pleasing and in character with the low-key nature of the reserve*
4. *To ensure that buildings and structures on the reserve are appropriate to meet the needs of approved uses and users.*

### **Implementation:**

*To provide ongoing maintenance and management as required, as well as meeting ongoing health and safety standards.*

### **6.1 Signs & Visitor Information**

The domain is not signposted from the turnoff and is not obvious to the newcomer until arriving at the gate at the end of Le Bons Bay Road. The Domain also contains very little information for visitors. This lack of signage reflects the reserve's history of usage primarily by local residents and regular holiday-makers. However, tourism on the peninsula is increasing and more signage would be helpful to visitors.

#### **Objective:**

*To provide adequate directional and informational signs for visitors to locate and enjoy the reserve, whilst avoiding a 'clutter' of signs.*

#### **Policies:**

See General Policy 6.9 Signs.

1. Provide a directional sign to the domain at the corner of Le Bons Bay Road and Le Bons Bay Beach Road, within the style requirements of the BPDC district plan.
2. Erect a name sign in line with Council reserve standards (NZS 8603:2005) at the entrance to the domain, incorporating a modest signboard.

### **6.2 Access Roads, Paths & Car parks**

Car parking for beach users is provided opposite the reserve entrance and is available within the reserve during the hours of daylight. Parking on the grass is not currently a problem since the sandy ground is free-draining and the level of use relatively low and well-dispersed. Fulton-Hogan occasionally drops off excess gravel to maintain the driveway between the gateway and the hall. The gate is opened and closed daily by a local resident on a voluntary basis, which has reduced the level of vandalism within the reserve.

Foot access to the reserve is available from a walkway at the end of the Rue de la Mer cul-de-sac in the adjacent subdivision. Another pedestrian track leads from the domain through the trees to the river, with a stile over the fence on the south-eastern boundary of the reserve.

**Objectives:**

1. To manage the impacts of vehicles on the reserve.
2. To provide access and parking to a level commensurate with use.
3. To provide pedestrian access to enhance the use and enjoyment of the reserve.

**Policies:**

See General Policies 6.10 Tracks and 6.11 Vehicle Access and Car Parking.

1. Restrict vehicular access to the reserve to daylight hours.
2. Maintain an all-weather access track between the entrance gate and the hall, developing an informal parking area if demand necessitates it.
3. Maintain pedestrian access between Rue de la Mer and the reserve and between the domain and the river.

### 6.3 Community Hall

The modern community hall was built in 1981. It contains a kitchen, main hall and ablution block. The foundations are concrete and concrete piles, the roof corrugated iron and the exterior constructed from treated *Pinus radiata* milled from the reserve. The floor and interior paneling is macrocarpa. The hall is in excellent condition and the roof has recently been repainted.



Figure 4: The Le Bons Bay Community Hall built from reserve timber.

The hall is used on an informal basis for committee and public meetings, private functions such as weddings and family picnics and larger functions such as sports days and Christmas breakups. It is hired out on average 6-8 times a year.

The main limitation with the community hall is that there is no outside toilet or water supply available. The Committee plans to build a toilet and shower block on the back of the hall, again from timber milled from the reserve. This would require a new septic tank and preferably a 25,000 litre water tank, which could also be used in the event of a fire.

Two separate water supplies service the community hall: The water from the Le Bons Bay Water Association Incorporated is used currently for the hall toilet and, subject to the approval of the Water Association, would also supply the proposed toilets and shower block when constructed. This water does not meet the New Zealand drinking water standards without filtration. The quantity of water available during the peak-use summer months and dry periods is limited and falls short of demand, hence the need for a reasonably large tank.

The second source of water is provided by local landowners J & L Inwood under an informal agreement. This is of drinking-quality standard and available in the hall's kitchen. The septic tank system serves the ablution area of the hall and was installed when the hall was built.

**Objectives:**

*To ensure the hall and its services and facilities are adequately maintained and available for public use.*

**Policies:**

See General Policy 6.22 Buildings and Structures and 6.15 Chargeable Facilities.

**Implementation:**

1. Construct a toilet and shower block on the back of the hall, with an additional septic tank, for the use of organised overnight groups.
2. Install a large water tank on a stand to service the ablution block and double as a water supply for fire-fighting, subject to obtaining an adequate increase in water allocation from the Le Bons Bay Water Association Incorporated.
3. Provide ongoing maintenance to existing facilities
4. The Committee to approach the Council in the first instance, or other Community financial sources for funding to be provided to bring the water supply up to NZ Standard should the current source of potable water become unavailable or fail to meet current standards.

## **6.4 Fences & Gates**

A 7-wire post and baton fence extends around the reserve boundary. A low chain and post barrier prevents vehicles from driving on to the main domain area. Both fences are in good repair.

**Objectives:**

*To erect fences or barriers on Le Bons Bay Domain and adjacent areas where necessary to address erosion, protect reserve values, ensure safety, or address adverse effects on neighbours.*

**Policies:**

See General Policy 5.10 Fencing.

**Implementation:**

- Maintain the current boundary fences and post and chain barrier in serviceable condition, and erect fences and stiles as required

## **6.5 Outdoor Furniture**

Approximately six painted pine one-piece table and chair sets are located in the picnic and BBQ area. These were constructed by the committee using timber from the domain.

**Policies:**

1. Provide low-key outdoor furniture as needed, preferably of a consistent style and quality.
2. Maintain outdoor furniture in an attractive, serviceable condition.

## 6.6 Refuse and Waste Disposal

Signs direct visitors to the community refuse recycling point. The current system appears to be working well. The Council is moving toward a 'carry in-carry out' rubbish policy for reserves

### **Objectives:**

*To preserve the domain's recreational and environmental values by limiting the amount of waste deposited at the reserve and through the appropriate collection and disposal of waste.*

### **Implementation:**

See General Policy 6.17 Refuse and Waste Disposal.

1. Encourage a 'carry in – carry out' rubbish policy for visitors by phasing out rubbish bins and erecting notices.
2. No person may deposit any waste on the domain without Council approval.
3. Where the domain is used for an event, the organisers of that event shall be responsible for collecting and disposing of waste.
4. Maintain the sign directing visitors to the community recycling centre.

## 7.0 Reserve Use

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### 7.1 Overnight Stays

The reserve committee receives an increasing number of requests from organised groups requesting extended stays at the reserve. The board considers that providing for such users is a good opportunity to increase the utilisation of the reserve.

The Committee allows designated groups such as schools, but not individual campers, to use the reserve. Out of consideration for the views of existing summer beach residents, such groups are permitted only outside of the six week peak holiday season between mid-December and the end of January and outside of statutory long weekends.

### **Objectives:**

*To allow limited overnight stays from organised groups provided that adverse effects can be avoided, remedied or mitigated.*

### **Policies:**

See General Policy 6.18 Camping.

Allow overnight visitors to stay in the domain subject to;

- Adherence by visitors to the Committee's rules and guidelines for overnight stays.
- Adequately addressing the issues of waste, water supply, damage to the reserve and the effects on other reserve users and neighbours.
- Compliance with relevant health, safety and fire regulations.
- Restricting overnight visitors to organised groups that have made prior arrangement with the Committee and have access to use the hall facilities.
- Restricting organised groups of overnight visitors to dates outside of December 15<sup>th</sup> to January 31<sup>st</sup> inclusive and outside of statutory long weekends, with stays of no more than seven nights per group.

## 7.2 Recreation

Although the reserve is no longer used for organized sport, it provides numerous opportunities for active and passive recreation. These include the tennis courts, large playing field, children's playground, flying fox and a challenge fitness course, which consists of a range of robust exercise structures located at intervals along a running track through the forest.

The Cricket Club disbanded in 2002. Although the tennis club no longer exists, the courts are well used by local residents and visitors. Casual ball games and sports are also popular.

The reserve is used locally in summer for picnics, BBQ's and school break ups.

### **Objectives:**

*To encourage the use of the reserve for passive recreation and sporting activities.*

*To allow and encourage public use that is compatible with the purpose of this reserve as defined by the Reserves Act 1977 and this management plan.*



Figure 5: The beginning of the flying fox, the community hall is in the background



Figure 6: The fitness course runs around the site perimeter

### **Policies:**

See *General Policies* 6.1 Use of Reserves, 7.1 Dog Control and 6.4 Commercial Use.

1. Maintain and enhance the area as a multi-purpose recreation reserve.
2. Maintain the tennis court surface and ball fence.
3. Maintain the turf for recreation and to prevent wind erosion of the sandy soil.
4. Maintain and where necessary upgrade the children's playground, flying fox and fitness equipment and their respective fall areas in a safe condition in accordance with New Zealand safety standards.
5. Maintain short grass around the picnic and barbeque areas.
6. Develop further recreational facilities as required.

## 8.0 Fire Prevention

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Fire is a major threat to the domain and via the domain to the beach community. The risk is accentuated by the dry summer climate, the considerable fuel resource from rank marram grass and pine trees, and the preference of visitors and campers to use their BBQ's near the sand dunes.

There is an alarm at the beach and a mobile water tank at the domain entrance that can be used in case of fire. Fire fighting resources are available through the Le Bons Bay Rural Fire Party, and the Akaroa and District Council Fire Brigades.

Neighbours have cut the long grass along the reserve boundary as a fire break between the reserve and adjacent holiday homes.

### **Objectives:**

*To take steps to minimise fire risk and the damage resulting from any fire*

### **Policies:**

See General Policy 5.12 Fire Control

1. Encourage cooperation among residents to prevent fires.
2. Ensure that fire appliances have ready access to the domain, including the main playing field.
3. Retain the water tank at the reserve entrance and ensure that any new water tank in the domain is equipped for extracting water for fire-fighting.

### **Implementation:**

1. Keep turf well mown and regularly mow a fire-break along the reserve's boundary with the beach subdivision
2. Remove slash and excessive flammable dead vegetation from the pine plantation.
3. Erect clearly visible 'No Fire' signs at the domain entrance and by arrangement along Le Bons Bay Beach Road.

## 9.0 Schedule of Works

\* Committee note: The figures below are based on some of the work being carried out on a voluntary basis. More external funding will be required to achieve all of the actions outlined.

Action	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Fell unstable or dead trees Poplars-topping and deep ripping ✓		1500			1500			1500			
Manage pine plantation for timber	800	800	800	800	800	800	800	800	800	800	800
Remove slash from forest to reduce fire risk.											
Control weeds	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
Maintain planted buffer between river and reserve ✓											
Erect location sign at corner of Le Bons Bay & Le Bons Bay Beach Rd ✓	150										
Erect reserve name sign at reserve entrance ✓	180										
Erect information sign inside reserve ✓			150								
Erect 'No Fire' sign at reserve entrance and if possible on Le Bons Bay Road.											
Maintain track surface between gate and hall	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400
Maintain walkways within reserve and to the river, beach and subdivision.											
Construct new toilet & shower block & install septic tank.*		19000									
Install new water tank and stand											
Maintain children's playground, flying fox and their fall areas in safe condition ✓											
Replace mower*				20000							
Re-surface tennis courts.* <i>Renovats</i>					30000						
Replace spouting		1500									
Replace veranda posts	1500										
Maintain turf and keep short in summer to reduce fire risk.	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000
<b>Estimated Annual Cost</b>	8530	28700	6850	26700	38200	6700	6700	8200	6700	6700	6700

## 10.0 Purpose & Scope of Reserve Management Plans

The Banks Peninsula District Council, as an administering body under the *Reserves Act 1977*, is required to prepare management plans for the reserves under its control. A management plan outlines the Council's general intentions for use, development and maintenance of a reserve. The *Reserves Act* (and subsequent amendments) is the main legislation that determines how reserves should be managed. It covers issues such as the classification and purpose of reserves, revocation, management planning, leasing of reserves and public consultation. Section 3 of the Act states that reserves will be administered for the purpose of:

*(a) Providing for the preservation and management for the benefit and enjoyment of the public, areas of New Zealand possessing-*

- (i) Recreational use or potential, whether active or passive; or*
- (ii) Wildlife; or*
- (iii) Indigenous flora or fauna; or*
- (iv) Environmental and landscape amenity or interest; or*
- (v) Natural, scenic, historic, cultural, archaeological, biological, geological, scientific, educational, community, or other special features or value:*

*(b) Ensuring, as far as possible, the survival of all indigenous species of flora and fauna, both rare and commonplace, in their natural communities and habitats, and the preservation of representative samples of all classes of natural ecosystems and lands which in the aggregate originally gave New Zealand its own recognisable character:*

*(c) Ensuring, as far as possible, the preservation of access for the public to and along the sea coast, its bays and inlets and offshore islands, lakeshores, and riverbanks and fostering and promoting the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment and of the margins of lakes and rivers and the protection of them from unnecessary subdivision and development.*

The management plan and policies set out how the Banks Peninsula District Council intends to achieve this purpose.

### 10.1 Management Planning

Section 41 of the *Reserves Act* requires that every recreation reserve has an operative management plan. The purpose of these is described in Section 41(3), which stipulates that:

*"The management plan shall provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection and preservation, as the case may require, and, the development, as appropriate, of the reserve for the purposes for which it is classified."*

If a reserve does not have a management plan, no part of that reserve can be leased without public consultation. In practice this means that every time a recreational organisation makes an application to lease part of a reserve, that proposal must publicly advertise for submissions. The production of a management plan can avoid this repeated public notification process, provided that the management plan specifies the areas available for lease.



### **10.1.1 Management Planning Procedure**

Recreation Reserve management plan preparation procedures are that:

- a) The public is consulted on what future use they would like their reserves put to.
- b) The public response is combined with general objectives and policies and further background information into a draft management plan document.
- c) This document is made available to the public for further comment. This is the opportunity for 'fine-tuning' of policies to produce a final document that accurately spells out how the reserve will be managed in the future.
- d) After hearings (if required) the draft management plan is amended accordingly and is then put before Council for approval in its final form. Once approved by Council it becomes the operative management plan.
- e) The Reserves Act provides for the management plan to be reviewed continuously so that it is adapted to changing circumstances. However, if the review involves major changes, it must again be opened for public input and comment.

Section 120(3) of the Reserves Act allows Council to determine its own procedure for hearing submissions received as a result of public consultation. However, Council is required by Section 120(1)d to give full consideration to every objection or submission received before deciding to proceed with the proposal.

The Reserves Act requires that full public consultation take place whenever land is declared to be reserve, whenever a reserve is classified, reclassified or revoked, whenever a management plan is prepared for a reserve, and whenever a reserve that has no management plan is leased.

The statutory minimum level of consultation is that a notice of the intended action be published once in the local daily paper, and a period of one month be given in which submissions may be made in response. The exception to this is the notification of draft management plans which requires a two month period for submissions.

### **10.2 Reserve Classification**

Section 16 of the Reserves Act 1977 requires that reserves are classified according to their principal or primary purpose, and sets out 7 kinds of classification. This Reserve is classified as a Recreation Reserve, created:

*"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." (S. 17 Reserves Act 1977)*

More specifically, Recreation Reserves are to provide for (S.17[2]):

*"Freedom of entry and access by the public;*

*Management and protection of scenic, historic, archaeological, biological, geological or other features or indigenous flora or fauna or wildlife;*

*Conservation of the qualities of the reserve which contribute to the pleasantness, harmony, and cohesion of the natural environment and to its better use and enjoyment; and*

*Maintenance of soil, water and forest conservation values".*

## 11.0 General Reserve Policies

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The *General Policies for Reserve Management* prepared by Rob Greenaway and Associates are in a separate document. They are integral to reserve management and are intended to be read with management plans.

Where any issue on a reserve is addressed by both the *General Policies* and a management plan specific to a reserve, then the specific policy takes precedence. Conversely, where a management plan is silent or incomplete on an area of policy, the general policy shall apply.