

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

As an administering body, the Hurunui District Council has the responsibility of preparing policy for the management of reserves within its control. Reserve Management aims to ensure that the District's reserves are managed in the best way possible to allow community use and enjoyment, while preserving and protecting them for future generations.

Historically, reserve management plans have been prepared on an ad-hoc basis for individual reserves or groups of reserves within the District. This approach, whilst of some merit, does not allow for the recognition of the commonality of reserve issues within the District. This Management Plan aims to provide a consistent management approach to the District's reserves. The only current exception to this is the Hanmer Springs Thermal Reserve which is managed under a separate management plan due to its unique situation.

Objectives and policies are divided into two sections: one general for all reserves, and a section specific to each individual reserve. In this way, generic objectives and policies apply to all reserves throughout the District and complement individual policies. This also means that the document will be applicable to any new reserves taken or created in future once they have been vested and classified in terms of the Reserves Act 1977.

The District Reserves Management Plan allows for a co-ordinated management approach to the District's reserves by identifying and integrating the interests of various stakeholders. The Plan will clarify lines of responsibility for control and management of reserves and provide indicative development directives and priorities for the next ten years.

Where possible, management policies have been formulated to be flexible enough to cope with changing needs and yet still meet stated objectives. However, it is recognised that management issues do change with time and some future revision of policies will be necessary.

It is important to note that reserve management within the Hurunui District entails delegated power to Reserve Committees for the development and servicing of reserves under its jurisdiction on behalf of ratepayers, with Council having the ultimate responsibility. Therefore, reference to "Council" is to be interpreted as a generic term reflective of the existing reserves management structure (refer page 20 - Reserve Committees).

HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT

Policy or reserve information in this plan can be found in the following three ways:

GENERAL POLICY QUERIES

To answer queries about general policies such as play equipment, grazing, leasing etc., refer to the General Reserve Policy section, page 20.

SPECIFIC RESERVE QUERIES

To locate information relating to specific reserves, the Individual Reserve Management Policies section, beginning on page 64, lists the reserves by Ward.

Alternatively, the Quick Reference Guide on page 392 provides a summary of reserves information relating to future development potential and costs, and acts as an index, listing all reserves in the District in alphabetical order with page number references to the Individual Reserve Management Policy for each reserve.

IDENTIFICATION OF RESERVE AREAS

To identify unknown reserve areas, go to the Reserve Location Maps section on page 31. This section contains a series of maps with named reserves grouped by Ward.

RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLANS

A management plan is a requirement for all reserves classified under the Reserves Act 1977. A management plan is put in place in order to provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection, and preservation of the reserve for the purposes for which it is classified, allowing for the development of the reserve where this is considered appropriate. This District Reserves Management Plan also provides management initiatives for reserves within the District which are classified as local purpose or historic reserves. This ensures that the management of reserves within the District is done in a consistent manner, taking into account both short and long-term management goals.

The management plan:

- Identifies the most appropriate uses for reserves as desired by the local and the wider district community, with consideration given to the sustainability of the land;
- Assesses the impact of these issues and how they are likely to change over time;
- Defines how the land should be best managed considering the resources available.

PLAN PROCESS AND CONSULTATION

This District Reserves Management Plan has been prepared in consultation with members of the public and with the Reserve Committees in order that it will accurately reflect the community vision within the District for reserves.

Management objectives, policies and development priorities contained within existing reserve management plans have provided the basis for the drafting of the District Reserves Management Plan. All current and partially completed Reserve Management Plans will also be replaced by the new Plan and retained as reference documents only.

PLAN REVIEW

This Management Plan will be subject to ongoing review to ensure its continued relevance, as circumstances affecting the development and management of the reserves change. Minor changes that are still within the intent of the Plan may be made at the discretion of Council and Reserve Committees. However, significant departures will require full notification of that section of the Plan that has been modified.

As the Plan is intended to act as an overall management plan for reserves in the District, it will also apply to new reserves taken or created which are subject to the Reserves Act 1977. For each new reserve, the individual policy prepared for it will be consulted on prior to inclusion to this Plan, and once adopted, the general policies will apply in the same way, enabling new reserves to be included without re-notification of the entire Plan.

There may be some reserves which because of their special characteristics require a separate management plan to be prepared. Currently, the Hanmer Springs Thermal Reserve falls into this category, as it has its own management plan. It is also anticipated that the former Queen Mary hospital site will require a separate plan.

The District Reserve Management Plan will be reviewed after ten years of operation in accordance with the review process set out in the Reserves Act, to ensure that it continues to reflect the needs of the members of the public using the reserves.

RESERVE COMMITTEES

The reserve management structure within the Hurunui District in most cases entails the delegation of power to Reserve Committees for the day-to-day development and servicing of reserves under their jurisdiction on behalf of ratepayers. The range and functions of each respective Reserve Committee are determined by the extent of the delegation from the Hurunui District Council. These functions are set out in the Reserve Committee Constitution, which is a formal agreement between each Reserve Committee and the Hurunui District Council.

Each Reserve Committee is established as a Sub-Committee of the main Council Reserve Committee or the relevant Ward Committee, under schedule 7, section 30 of the Local Government Act 2002. In general, each Reserve Committee consists of a maximum of nine members elected at a public meeting within six months following each Triennial Election of Council. The Council also appoints a Ward Councillor to each Committee at this time.

Each Reserve Committee is then authorised to make whatever arrangements are considered necessary for the proper day-to-day running of the reserve within the constraints of the annual budget and existing reserve management plans, and members are also appointed as rangers pursuant to section 10 of the Reserves Act.

Given the extensive size of the Hurunui District, the Reserve Committee management structure works very well in that locals within each area are able to quickly identify and address maintenance issues on reserves. All Reserve Committees are also an invaluable resource for Council when it comes to being made aware of issues of concern within the community. The Reserve Committees complete extensive voluntary work on behalf of Council for the benefit of the general community and their significant contribution to the District is gratefully acknowledged.



PLANNING CONTEXT

Many aspects of reserve planning are controlled by legislation. The two main statutes governing reserve management are the Reserves Act and the Resource Management Act 1991 (R.M.A). The Reserves Act is concerned specifically with the designation, use and management of reserves. The purpose of the R.M.A is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. The R.M.A requires local authorities to prepare District Plans, which implement the Act's purpose and principles. The policies within the District Plan give direction to the reserve management plans. The Local Government Act 2002 also requires Council to have in place a Long Term Council Community Plan, which projects the funding allocated for reserves.

RESERVES ACT

CLASSIFICATIONS

Section 16 of the Reserves Act requires that reserves be classified according to their principal or primary purpose. The Act identifies seven distinct classifications being: Recreation; Local Purpose; Scenic; Nature; Historic; Scientific, and; Government Purpose. In general, the classifications that are controlled or managed by local authorities are Recreation and Local Purpose reserves, but the Council manages one Historic reserve, the Kowai Council Chambers.

Local Purpose reserves were created by the Reserves Act "for the purpose of providing and retaining areas for such local purpose or purposes as are specified in any classification of the Reserve." (Section 23(1)) Local Purpose reserves include such things as: play centres; esplanades; access ways; plunket rooms and so on.

Recreation reserves are 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." (Section 17(1)) Section 17 constrains the management of Recreation reserves.

Historic reserves are created "...for the purpose of protecting and preserving in perpetuity such places, objects, and natural features, and such things thereon or therein contained as are of historic, archaeological, cultural, educational, and other special interest." (Section 18(1)) Section 18 sets our terms for the management of Historic reserves.

RECLASSIFICATION AND REVOCATION

There is provision under Section 24 of the Reserves Act for the classification of the whole or any part of a reserve to be either changed or revoked. This can occur if the use of the reserve changes dramatically, or if it is no longer required as a reserve.

In either case, Council cannot act without first consulting with the Minister of Conservation and conducting a full public consultation process. The Reserves Act clearly defines the statutory process that must be followed before any reserve land can be reclassified or have its reserve status revoked. There are also restrictions regarding what types of reserve may be affected.

If a reserve has its reserve status revoked under the Reserves Act, Council may in certain cases dispose of it. This depends largely on how the reserve was acquired and the circumstances surrounding the revocation request. Generally, if the reserve was originally gifted, was Crown Land or was taken under the Public Works Act, then it cannot be sold but must be offered back to the original owners.

LEASING OF RESERVES

If no management plan exists for a reserve, then no part of that reserve can be leased without publicly advertising for submissions. A management plan can avoid this repeated notification process, provided that the management plan specifies which areas are to be made available for lease. The Hurunui District Council has the authority to lease areas of reserve land to various organisations under certain circumstances. Sections 54, 58A and 61 of the Reserves Act, which cover the leasing of recreation, historic and local purpose reserves respectively, strictly control the authority. This strict control over leasing exists to ensure that public reserves are not covered by a proliferation of buildings, and that public access to these reserves is not unduly compromised.

Leases or licences should only be granted for recreation reserves where it is considered to be in the public interest, either enhancing public enjoyment of the reserve or for the convenience of recreational user groups. Before any lease of a recreation reserve is granted, it must be subject to public consultation, either by public notification of each proposed lease, the consultation process involved in the preparation of management plans, or by a notified resource consent under Section 93 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

In the case of local purpose reserves, a lease may be granted without public consultation (refer page 47 for the Council Lease Policy).

DISTRICT PLAN

The District Plan, prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Resource Management Act 1991, contains a management strategy which identifies the significant resource management issues facing the Hurunui District. These issues should be taken into account when considering reserve management. Specifically, there must be a balance between facilitating public access to environmentally sensitive areas and preserving these areas for future generations. The District Plan identifies the following issues:

ENVIRONMENTS OF SPECIAL CONCERN

Within the Hurunui District there are a number of environments which have a special character and value, or which face particular pressures that represent significant issues for the District. These environments require specific strategies to address the particular circumstances and demands within them. The environments of special concern are; Urban Areas, Coastal Environment, Hurunui Lakes Area, Hanmer Basin, and Mount Lyford.

URBAN AREAS

Despite the relatively small size of the Hurunui townships, urban areas have environmental qualities that differ in many respects from those of the District's rural environment. The community's expectations regarding reserve provision within the urban environment differ from those in the rural environment. Urban reserves need be developed and managed to a similar level as the surrounding private residential properties. With this in mind, reserve land shall be taken and developed in accordance with the character of each township. Reserves will fulfil the purposes for which they have been taken, whether they are neighbourhood reserves, sport facilities or areas of natural open space.

The larger areas of open space within townships are important resources, which need to be managed in a sustained manner. They provide a range of opportunities for residents and visitors to the District, allowing for passive and active recreational pursuits, as well as contributing to the overall amenity values within townships.

Given these considerations, reserve acquisitions in the urban areas must be taken in a thoughtful and methodical manner taking into account both present and future user demands. Prior to the acquisition of new reserve land, care must be taken to appraise existing reserve land from a purpose and development perspective.

COASTAL ENVIRONMENT

The coast is one of the District's most significant natural resources, having special recreational value for residents and visitors. The coastal environment in the Hurunui District includes Amberley Beach, Leithfield Beach, Motunau Beach, Hurunui Mouth, Gore Bay, Nape Nape, Manuka Bay and Conway Flat. Within these areas are a number of reserves, which present a wide range of management issues. In particular, the coastal environment is complicated by the susceptibility of the coastline to natural hazards, particularly inundation of low-lying areas and erosion of sedimentary coastline.

The recreational values of the coastal environment are important for aquatic activities, passive recreation and for coastal walkways. It is therefore important that reserves and public access along the coast are sensitively developed to meet the expectations of visitors whilst minimising adverse effects on the amenity values and natural character of the area. Where access is identified as a critical concern, esplanade reserves or strips may be formed via negotiation with landowners or through the resource consent process.

HURUNUI LAKES AREA

The Hurunui Lakes Area is an isolated high country catchment in which glacial action has formed a dramatic landscape. The area contains seven lakes that drain into the Hurunui River or its southern branch. They are Lake Sumner, Taylor, Sheppard, Mason (including Little Lake Mason), Loch Katrine, and Raupo Pond.

The grandeur and tranquillity of the area make it a popular destination for visitors, who take up the area's many opportunities for recreation, including tramping, hunting, fishing, canoeing, four-wheel driving and trail biking. The area is accessed via an unsealed narrow road along the Hurunui Valley that ends at Lake Taylor. From this point a four-wheel drive is required to access the other lakes.

This land is managed directly by the Department of Conservation and is not specifically addressed within the scope of this District Reserves Management Plan. However, the Hurunui Lakes Area has been identified as one of the District's significant natural assets, and the area is one of high natural and recreational value, not only to the District, but regionally and nationally. The increase in visitor numbers and the often conflicting objectives of recreation, farming and conservation have led to a demand for a more integrated, consistent and long term management of the Lakes Area, with Council needing to work alongside other stakeholders in the management of this area.

HANMER BASIN

The Hanmer Basin is a special area, being a popular retirement and holiday destination for domestic and international tourists as well as having considerable environmental and conservation values. While the focal point for the Basin is the Hanmer Springs township, a range of various active and passive recreational pursuits exist which attract visitors to the whole area. The township itself has special qualities that should be considered and integrated into the overall management of reserves within the area. Maintaining and enhancing the special alpine character of the township can be attained through an integrated pattern of greenways and open spaces throughout the township, providing walkways and/or riding trails between the town centre, the residential areas and the major recreational attractions.

It is also recognised that areas of the Hanmer Forest that have covenants over them provide for public access and recreation are a significant community asset in terms of their amenity values and as a recreational and tourism resource.

MOUNT LYFORD

Mount Lyford is a privately owned and operated mountain resort development, encompassing approximately 1000 ha of high country and sub-alpine land in the north of the District. A special management area has been created for Mount Lyford to provide a framework for further development of the area to ensure it is undertaken in a manner that avoids or mitigates the potential to create significant impacts on the sensitive mountain environment. Mt. Lyford Reserve, which is situated in close proximity to the Mt. Lyford Ski Field, has also been developed with public toilets, a viewing platform and a children's slide.

ECOSYSTEMS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Hurunui District contains a variety of ecosystems and habitats, including vegetation, wetlands, geothermal bores and rivers, which form the District's natural character. Indigenous plants and animals are an integral part of the natural character of the District, and in addition to their intrinsic value, plants and animals are significant for cultural, scientific and educational reasons and biological diversity. These natural resources may be degraded or lost without suitable land management practices.

Natural resources already identified by the community as being valuable include the Hurunui Lakes and Hanmer Basin, Lake Tennyson and the tussock grasslands of the upper Clarence and Molesworth country. Remnant areas of indigenous vegetation and natural features unique to the District such as the Weka Pass limestone outcrops and wetland areas are also examples of important natural features within the District.

A focus of the District Reserves Management Plan is the management of reserve land in such a way that natural resources within reserves are preserved and enhanced, complementing recreational purposes. This can be achieved via the enhancement of remnant vegetation areas with endemic plantings and the construction of alternative pedestrian access mechanisms such as boardwalks over wetland areas.

However, land use activities and access to such resources can result in the deterioration of water quality through pedestrian and vehicle traffic, litter and through general interference with the natural ecosystems associated with lake or river margins. Mitigation of adverse environmental effects must be taken into account when considering the development of public access-ways and reserves in ecologically sensitive areas.

HERITAGE RESOURCES

Heritage features are some of the District's significant resources. Such features include historic buildings, sites or areas, and features of aesthetic or spiritual importance. It is important that the value of these resources is recognised and protected. As heritage is a subjective issue, the identification and protection of the District's heritage values should come from local initiatives, as well as from regional, national or overseas sources. Recognised heritage sites on reserves will be afforded necessary protection and if appropriate will be marked with interpretive signage. The original cob cottage known as Watters Cottage located on Flintoft Reserve is one such example of a heritage building, which has been afforded protection under the Historic Places Act (1993) as a Category II building.

HURUNUI LONG TERM COMMUNITY PLAN

The Hurunui Long Term Community Plan (HLTCP) is a document which captures the long-term vision that the community has for the district, and describes why Council does what it does and what the cost will be for the 10 year period of the plan. This includes the budgeting for reserves. It is through the HLTCP and other budgeting processes that reserve development work will be prioritised, and therefore it is necessary that the Reserve Management Plan feeds into the budgeting in the HLTCP.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE SURVEY AND CONDITION ASSESSMENT REPORT

This report was undertaken in 2004 by Fulton Hogan to identify immediate and ongoing maintenance work for buildings owned by Council. As some reserves in the District contain buildings, it will be necessary to consider the assessment report and any future assessments undertaken alongside this management plan when considering future management and development of these buildings.

FUNDING

This section should be read in conjunction with the Council's Reserve Funding Policy, which can be found in Appendix D.

The Council intends to continue to develop the reserve network throughout the District. Capital works on reserves are funded either from money collected from revenues raised within the reserve network, rates income or development contributions received. Maintenance on reserves is generally funded from rate money, either amenity rate funding or district rate funding depending on a reserve's categorisation. Amenity rating revenue is derived from within a Ward and can only be applied to work within that Ward. District rating revenues are raised across the District and can be applied anywhere within it. In the context of development contributions received, the Council practice is to spend the money within the Ward from which it is collected. This money can only be applied to capital works.

The Individual Reserve Management Policies identify the estimated level of funding required for capital development for individual reserves within the network. It should be noted that the estimated cost identified for each reserve is subject to the availability of funds, other budgeting processes such as the Long Term Council Community Plan consultation process, and to Council approval.

CATEGORY OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

DISTRICT RESERVES

For this category, the individual reserve policies aim to fulfil the following objectives:

- To promote the use of District Reserves by visitors from both outside and within the District by encouraging the provision and maintenance of high quality facilities for active recreation or aesthetically pleasing spaces for passive recreation.
- To recognise and protect the natural character of esplanade reserves whilst developing public access points to waterways where practicable
- To recognise and protect the natural character of ecological reserves whilst facilitating sustainable levels of public access to these environmentally sensitive areas
- To preserve and protect the features of historical reserves within the District in a way which reflects their character and value to the community
- Development and maintenance of stream and lakeside reserves in a way that will encourage passive and water-based recreation.

The following policy statements will apply generally to all District Reserves:

- Reserve development will tend to encourage active sports either by provision and maintenance of Council facilities or by leasing to organisations that can provide and maintain those facilities.
- Maintenance standards will reflect the high profile of these reserves.
- No development will be permitted that may detrimentally affect or detract from the characteristics that draw people to use and enjoy the reserve.

DISTRICT/AMENITY RESERVES

For this category, the individual reserve policies aim to fulfil the following objective:

- To promote the use of District/Amenity reserves by the wider community by allowing development and maintenance of facilities for active and passive recreation and community purposes.

The following policy statements apply to District/Amenity Reserves:

- Reserve development will tend to encourage active recreation and may include tree planting, playground construction, drainage works, contouring, fencing, sports field construction, parking, toilet facilities, lighting, and low maintenance gardens.

- No development will be permitted that may detrimentally affect the qualities of historically or ecologically significant reserves
- The natural, historical and scientifically significant features will be protected and preserved
- The natural character of ecological reserves will be recognised and protected by facilitating sustainable levels of public access to these environmentally sensitive areas

AMENITY RESERVES

For this category, the individual reserve policies aim to fulfil the following objectives:

- To develop and maintain Amenity Reserves in a way that will encourage casual and passive recreational activities, and active child's play.
- To retain the reserve as an 'open space' for the benefit of all users.

The following policy statements apply to Amenity Reserves:

- Reserve development will be limited to vegetation and tree planting, playground construction, drainage, contouring and fencing. Gardens will not be constructed unless a development and maintenance schedule is prepared.
- Community projects such as walkway construction (General Policy 28) may occur on Amenity reserves provided that reserves policy is adhered to.
- Should a community mandate exist for a major development proposal on an Amenity Reserve, consideration will be given regarding the re-classification of the reserve to the District/Amenity category.

ACQUISITION OF RESERVES

Reserve land is acquired by both local and central government for a number of reasons including the following:

- a) For the protection of the land and its features;
- b) For the preservation of natural values in the District;
- c) For the benefit of the public;
- d) To set aside land for essential service functions; and
- e) To maintain public access to areas such as waterways.

There are several ways in which reserves may be created.

SUBDIVISION

When land is subdivided the developer is required under the Council's Development Contributions Policy to make a reserves contribution of specified value depending on the location of the subdivision. Development contributions, levied under the Local Government Act 2002, are taken for the purchase or development of reserves within the district, as specified in the Reserve Development Contribution Policy.

Council may also take financial contributions under the Resource Management Act 1991 to achieve the purposes of the District Plan, in order to maintain adequate open space, recreational facilities and other public resources for public enjoyment, or for the protection of amenity, conservation or heritage values. These contributions are identified in the District Plan, and cannot be levied for the same purpose as development contributions.

The reserves contribution may also be waived or reduced by the Council in situations where the applicant provides land for reserve purposes or other public facilities, which will serve the subdivision and are vested in Council.

The Resource Management Act 1991 provides the statutory basis for acquiring esplanade reserves and esplanade strips and access strips upon subdivision. The Act places considerable emphasis on the provision of public access along lake and river margins identifying this as a matter of national importance (Part Two of the Act).

CROWN LAND VESTED IN COUNCIL

Reserve land previously owned by Government can be vested in Council directly in accordance with section 26 of the Reserves Act, or indirectly by classification in accordance with section 26A of the Act. The Council owns and administers the land.

PUBLIC WORKS ACT

Land can be taken for reserve purposes under the Public Works Act. Land acquired in this way is owned and administered by Council.

PURCHASED LAND

Land may be purchased for a particular purpose subject to the Reserves Act. If the purpose of the reserve is stated in the document transferring the land to Council ownership, then public reserve status is secured.

RE-CLASSIFICATION OF EXISTING RESERVE

Reserves can be created for a specific purpose by changing the classification of existing reserves. This process is subject to approval by the Minister of Conservation and must be publicly notified.

GIFTING OF LAND

On occasion members of the public have gifted land to the community. Such gifting is usually in perpetuity or for as long as the reserve is required for the purpose for which it is gifted. The generosity of these gifts is acknowledged and all care is taken to administer these reserves in the spirit in which they were given.

DECLARATION THAT LAND BE RESERVE

The Council is able to declare land held in fee simple title as reserve land pursuant to section 14 of the Reserves Act. If land is already zoned as public reserve in the Operative District Plan, then it is not obligatory for Council to publicly notify its intention to declare the land as reserve.

APPOINTMENT TO CONTROL AND MANAGE A RESERVE

For the enhancement of the purposes of any reserve vested in the Crown, the Minister may by notice in the Gazette appoint a local authority to control and manage the reserve for the particular purpose for which the reserve is classified. Although the Council is responsible for the management of the reserve, the Crown still owns the land until such time as it is classified under the Reserves Act. The reserve is then vested in Council in accordance with section 26A of the Act.

PRESENT DEFICIENCIES AND FUTURE REQUIREMENTS

The Hurunui District contains a significant number of reserves located throughout a widespread area. Some Wards within the District such as the Cheviot Ward contain an extensive number of reserves and have the capacity to accommodate the needs of recreational groups as they arise. However, the Glenmark Ward lacks reserve land within the township and would greatly benefit from the purchase of additional reserve land for both open space purposes and for the building of additional community buildings. Clearly, the availability of appropriately classified reserve land requires careful assessment both within each Ward and within the context of the District as a whole. It would seem appropriate then, that a specific Reserves Strategy be devised assessing and prioritising the localities where reserve land should be secured when it becomes available. The existence of a Reserves Strategy would be of assistance both to developers and Council staff alike when making decisions regarding the provision of appropriate reserve land or development / financial contributions as subdivisions are created, new reserve areas are taken or existing areas of reserve are developed or extended. A start has been made to this type of strategy, with an Amberley Reserve Strategy having been developed as part of the Amberley Town Plan Change process. (A copy of this strategy can be found in Appendix H.)

The Reserves Strategy would also provide an acquisition framework for the District allowing for appropriate funding mechanisms to be set in place over the life of the District Reserves Management Plan (refer Primary Aims and Objectives, page 18).

Another issue that requires consideration is the provision of appropriate signage within the District as a whole, indicating the location of Reserves, pedestrian walkways and places of historical significance. The provision of adequate signage assists visitors in their decision making as they are made aware of the recreational opportunities within the vicinity. It is also reasonable to expect visitor pressures on the well-known recreational spaces to be alleviated as visitors choose to investigate other local reserve areas.

PRIMARY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL STATEMENT

The goal of the Hurunui District Council regarding reserve management is as follows:

To manage the reserves of the Hurunui District in a manner that meets the needs and expectations of the community, providing for recreational needs and ensuring the preservation of natural and physical resources.

AIMS

The aims of the District Reserve Management Plan are as follows:

- a To meet statutory responsibilities for the preparation and review of Reserve Management Plans for reserves held under the Reserves Act 1977.
- b The development and maintenance of reserve land and facilities to the appropriate standard which reflects their value, character, and use and to enable maximum public use, enjoyment, and safety consistent with preservation of natural values.
- c To implement reserve development and maintenance on a sustainable basis in accordance with the Council's District Plan, reserves funding policy and priority based budgeting approach.
- d The provision of reserve land, through a programme of reserves acquisition, in a balanced framework throughout the District to meet current and future recreational needs of residents and visitors.
- e To provide opportunities for the people of the Hurunui District to have input into the management of reserve land through formal communication processes, taking into account the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and the provision and recognition of Tangata Whenua traditional relationships with their lands, water, waahi tapu, and other taonga.
- f The integration of kaitiakitanga (the guardianship of resources) into the management of natural and physical resources on reserve land



OBJECTIVES

Management Objectives provide a framework in which Management Aims can be achieved, and are as follows:

- g The satisfaction of the statutory requirement laid down in the Reserves Act 1977 and subsequent amendments, for all administering bodies of recreation reserves to formulate long term plans for their management.
- h Developed and maintained recreation reserves for public enjoyment, protection of the environment, and retention of principal tourism features.
- i Provision of adequate reserves and facilities for organised sport and recreation.
- j Provision of adequate areas such as parks and gardens for passive recreation.
- k Protection and preservation of natural or historic features on reserve land.
- l Maintained and enhanced access to and along rivers and coastlines where practicable and safe.
- m Preservation of the natural character of wetlands, lakes and their margins.
- n Preservation of the natural character of coastal environments.
- o Preservation of the natural character of indigenous vegetation and native wildlife habitat on the reserves and open spaces within the District.
- p Identification of prioritised reserve development requirements within the District's reserves within a ten-year development period.
- q The implementation of a sustainable development and maintenance schedule for reserves in accordance with Council's reserve funding policy.
- r The fulfilment of Council's responsibility to protect all archaeological sites under the Historic Places Act 1993.
- s The recognition and protection of various utility structures located in or traversing some reserves within the District to ensure that the inspection, maintenance, ongoing operation, and upgrading of this infrastructure can take place within reserve areas as necessary.
- t The protection of the integrity of the infrastructure and/or public safety in the unlikely event of an emergency or a fault, by ensuring that any activity within the vicinity of an existing infrastructure complies with the safe separation distances specified in the NZECP 34:2001.
- u Management in coordination with adjoining lands where the values within the reserve are also found on the adjoining lands.