

HURUNUI DISTRICT COUNCIL

POLICY

RESERVES FUNDING POLICY



Adopted:	Council meeting 25 June 2015
Replaces:	Council meeting 28 June 2012
Review date:	2018

Introduction

All reserves in the District are divided into two categories for funding purposes. The reserves are identified by area of benefit rather than by the legal classification of reserve. This policy provides a foundation for the priorities of the long-term development programme for reserves and how they are funded.

In determining the category status and the extent of benefit of any reserve, the Council will have regard to the degree to which one or more of the factors apply to a particular reserve:

- Heritage value
- Visitor numbers
- Local use
- Local amenity value
- Social / Economic value
- Location to visitor attractions
- Location to State Highways
- Location to tourist routes
- Ecological value

For example, the higher the local use or contribution towards local amenity, the greater the weighting towards the classification as an "Amenity Reserve". The more visitor-oriented or the greater the heritage or ecological value, the greater the weighting towards the classification as a "District Reserve".

Should these factors change over time, the Council may review the funding category of any reserve if circumstances warrant this.

District reserves

Funding:

Capital expenditure and maintenance may be fully funded by the general rate or the Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools and Spa profits, if available.

Defined as:

A district reserve is one that serves and benefits the district and wider community as a whole rather than the local community. District reserves are utilised by a wide range of user groups and visitors may travel some distance to access the reserve. District reserves may also have distinctive features which make them unique, such as geothermal activity, or uncommon landforms and vegetation. They may also be valuable in terms of their historic buildings, proximity to watercourses and their amenity

value. The public use and accessibility to the district reserves will generally tend to be high, (with the exception of undeveloped esplanade reserves, ecological reserves, gravel pits and some historical reserves). All gravel, forestry, cemetery and esplanade reserves will be funded as “district reserves”.

Amenity reserves

Funding:

Capital expenditure and maintenance are fully funded by the local amenity rate or, at the discretion of the Council, fully or partially funded by Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools and Spa profits.

Defined as:

An amenity reserves is one that benefits principally to the local community in which it is situated.

Limitations

In setting out the above formulas it is recognised that funding of reserve projects will still be subject to the normal budgeting processes. Individual wards or rating areas may use funds that the Council has allocated to it from the Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools and Spa profits, on an annual basis. There is also a need to ensure local support exists for meeting the costs of maintenance where these fall locally. The following limitations also apply:

- In the case of all capital works, the first call for project funding on a district reserve or amenity reserve shall be against unallocated funding from a ward’s land subdivision account or unallocated surpluses held within all accounts of the reserve’s administering body. An exception to this applies in the case of the Cheviot Reserves Committee’s Joint Venture forestry surpluses. The interest from the Joint Venture’s surpluses is required to fund the ongoing maintenance of the reserves under its control.
- Prior to any capital expenditure being promoted on an amenity reserve, the ward committee or group managing the reserve on the Council’s behalf, acknowledges that future maintenance costs will fall on the amenity account.

The administering group of any category of reserve can promote projects and fund them locally outside the funding regime described above in the event that the Council decides not to fund a particular project.

Funding for reserve development may also be obtained from Development Contributions (per the Local Government Act) as stated in the Council’s Long Term Plan or Financial Contributions (Resource Management Act) as stated in the Council’s District Plan.
