

## **Policy and Planning Committee**

Tuesday 14 March 2017

11.00am

Taranaki Regional Council, Stratford



**Agenda for the meeting of the Policy and Planning Committee to be held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Tuesday 14 March 2017 commencing at 11.00am.**

<b>Members</b>	Councillor N W Walker	(Committee Chairperson)
	Councillor C L Littlewood	
	Councillor M P Joyce	
	Councillor D H McIntyre	
	Councillor B K Raine	
	Councillor C S Williamson	
	Councillor D L Lean	(ex officio)
	Councillor D N MacLeod	(ex officio)
<b>Representatives</b>	Councillor R Jordan	(New Plymouth District Council)
	Councillor G Boyde	(Stratford District Council)
	Councillor C Coxhead	(South Taranaki District Council)
	Mrs B Muir	(Taranaki Federated Farmers)
<b>Apologies</b>	Councillor P Nixon	(South Taranaki District Council)

**Notification of Late Items**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Subject</b>
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## Agenda Memorandum

**Date** 14 March 2017



**Memorandum to  
Chairperson and Members  
Policy and Planning Committee**

**Subject: Confirmation of Minutes – 31 January  
2017**

**Approved by:** A D McLay, Director-Resource Management  
B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

**Document:** 1832168

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### **Resolve**

That the Policy and Planning Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. takes as read and confirms the minutes of the Policy and Planning Committee meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Tuesday 31 January 2017 at 11.00am
2. notes the recommendations therein were adopted by the Taranaki Regional Council on 20 February 2017.

### **Matters arising**

#### **Appendices**

Document #1812098 – Minutes Policy and Planning Committee Tuesday 31 January 2017

**Minutes of the Policy and Planning Committee Meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council, held in the Taranaki Regional Council Chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Tuesday 31 January 2017 at 11.00 am.**



<b>Members</b>	Councillors	N W Walker	(Committee Chairperson)	
		M P Joyce		
		C L Littlewood		
		D H McIntyre		
		B K Raine		
		C S Williamson		
		D L Lean	(ex officio)	
		D N MacLeod	(ex officio)	
<b>Attending</b>	Councillor	G Boyde	(Stratford District Council)	
	Councillor	P Nixon	(South Taranaki District Council)	
<b>Attending</b>	Messrs	A D McLay	(Director-Resource Management)	
		G K Bedford	(Director-Environment Quality)	
		C L Spurdle	(Planning Manager)	
		G C Severinsen	(Planning and Strategy Manager)	
		M J Nield	Director-Corporate Services)	
		S Tamarapa	(Iwi Communications Officer)	
		P Ledingham	(Communications Officer)	
		R Ritchie	(Communications Manager)	
		Mrs	K van Gameren	(Committee Administrator)
		Mrs	N West	(Policy Analyst)
		Mrs	V McKay	(Science Manager)
		Mr	J Clough	(Wrightson Consulting)
		Mr	D Sutherland	(Scientific Officer)(Items 1-3)
	Mr	T Payne	(Investigating Officer)	
Mr	B Pope	(Compliance Manager)		
Mr	R Phipps	(Science Manager)		
Ms	L Harper	(Taranaki Federated Farmers)		
Dr	S Forgie	(Beetle Innovations Limited)		
Mr	B Attrill	(Stratford Demonstration Farm)		
	(Items 1-2)			
	One Member of the Media			
<b>Apologies</b>		The apology from Councillor R Jordan (New Plymouth District Council) was received and sustained.		

**Notification of  
Late Items**

There were no late items of business.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes – 24 November 2016**

**Resolved**

THAT the Policy and Planning Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council

1. takes as read and confirms the minutes of the Policy and Planning Committee meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Thursday 24 November 2016 at 10.30am
2. notes that the recommendations therein were adopted by the Taranaki Regional Council on 13 December 2016.

Williamson/McIntyre

**Matters Arising**

Ministry for the Environment Report – Marine Environment 2016

It was confirmed that the Ministry for the Environment and Statistics New Zealand had been written to over the nature and tone of the *Our marine environment 2016: Data to 2015* report and Mr G K Bedford, Director-Environment Quality, provided an update to the Committee on the response received.

**2. Introducing dung beetles to Taranaki dairy farms**

- 2.1 Mr A D McLay, Director-Resource Management, spoke to the memorandum noting limited dung beetle releases have commenced in the Taranaki region.
- 2.2 The Committee received a presentation from Dr Shaun Forgie, Beetle Innovations Limited, about the dung beetle release programme and the environmental benefits of the programme. The involvement of other councils and the form of their programmes was discussed.
- 2.3 The Committee expressed interest in exploring an increased investment in a dung-beetle release programme in Taranaki and requested the officers work with the company to investigate extending the programme, including an assessment of what other councils have done and its outcome.

**Recommendations**

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the memorandum on the *Introduction of dung beetles to Taranaki dairy farms*
2. notes this is a collaborative project between the Council, Federated Farmers and the Dairy Demonstration Farms in the region

3. notes the effectiveness of the spread will be monitored and results provided to the Council and community
4. requests the Council work with Beetle Innovations Limited to investigate extending the programme, including an assessment of what other councils have done and its outcome.

Raine/McIntyre

### **3. Regional freshwater ecological quality: 2015-2016 results from state of the environment monitoring**

- 3.1 Mr G K Bedford, Director-Environment Quality, spoke to the memorandum updating the Committee on the latest results of the Council's state of the environment monitoring programme for freshwater ecological health (macroinvertebrate monitoring).
- 3.2 Mr Bedford provided a presentation, *Ecological measures of stream health and freshwater quality 1995-2016*, to the Committee, noting that the number of monitoring sites showing either indicative or significant improvement was now at record levels, and the improvements were occurring at the majority of sites, both at sites low in catchments and at mid-catchment altitudes. Current and future management initiatives should see improvements continue.

#### **Recommended**

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives this memorandum noting the preparation of a report into the state of and trends in regional in-stream macroinvertebrate community health data for Taranaki, for 2015-2016 and over the period 1995-2016
2. notes the findings of the SEM programme
3. adopts the specific recommendations therein.

McIntyre/Joyce

### **4. Interim review of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki**

- 4.1 Mr C L Spurdle, Planning Manager, spoke to the memorandum introducing the Council's draft report *Interim review of the Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki 2010 – Evaluation of appropriateness, efficiency and effectiveness*.
- 4.2 Members discussed the report and supported the combined plan concept at or about 2020 and acknowledged the policy alignment work progressing towards this objective.

**Recommended**

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives this memorandum and attached report *Interim review of the Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki 2010 – Evaluation of appropriateness, efficiency and effectiveness*
2. agrees to circulate to key stakeholders the attached report for their comment
3. notes that a final report, including the views and responses of stakeholders on the effectiveness and efficiency of the RPS, will be presented for Members' consideration in mid 2017.

Raine/MacLeod

**5. Submission on Draft District Plan for New Plymouth**

- 5.1 Mr G C Severinsen, Policy and Strategy Manager, spoke to the memorandum introducing a submission made on the Draft District Plan for New Plymouth. The submission was sent by the due date of 16 December 2016.
- 5.2 Members discussed the planning process and engagement between the councils.

**Recommended**

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the memorandum *Submission on Draft District Plan for New Plymouth*
2. endorses the submission.

Joyce/Littlewood

**6. Submission on Stratford District Plan Review Issues Paper**

- 6.1 Mr G C Severinsen, Policy and Strategy Manager, spoke to the memorandum introducing a submission made to the Stratford District Council on their District Plan Review Issues Paper. The submission was sent by the due date in December 2016.

**Recommended**

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the memorandum *Submission on Stratford District Plan Review Issues Paper*
2. endorses the submission.

McIntyre/MacLeod

**7. Submission on Proposed South Taranaki District Council Trade Waste Bylaw 2016**

- 7.1 Mr G C Severinsen, Policy and Strategy Manager, spoke to the memorandum introducing a submission made to the South Taranaki District Council on their Proposed Trade Waste Bylaw 2016. The submission was sent by the due date of 20 December 2016.
- 7.2 The Committee noted this was the last district council to have a comprehensive trade waste programme and noted the benefits that had arisen out of such programmes elsewhere in the region.

**Recommended**

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the memorandum *Submission on South Taranaki District Council Trade Waste Bylaw 2016*
2. endorses the submission.

Nixon/Williamson

There being no further business, the Committee Chairperson Councillor N W Walker, declared the Policy and Planning Committee meeting closed at 12.45pm.

**Confirmed**

**Chairperson** \_\_\_\_\_  
N W Walker

**Date** 14 March 2017



## Agenda Memorandum

**Date** 14 March 2017



**Memorandum to  
Chairperson and Members  
Policy and Planning Committee**

**Subject: Regionally significant surf breaks**

**Approved by:** AD McLay, Director – Resource Management

BG Chamberlain, Chief Executive

**Document:** 1826999

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### **Purpose**

The purpose of this memorandum is to update the committee on work currently being undertaken to develop criteria for determining which surf breaks are regionally significant.

### **Executive summary**

- The Taranaki coastline is unique for its numerous high quality surf breaks. These are currently protected through the *Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki 2010* (RPS) and the *New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement* (NZCPS).
- The Council is in the process of reviewing the *Regional Coastal Plan for Taranaki* and released a *draft Coastal Plan for Taranaki* (draft Plan) for consultation in September 2016.
- Policies within the draft Plan provide the highest level of protection to Nationally Significant Surf Breaks (as required by the NZCPS) and all regionally significant surf breaks within the Nationally Significant Surfing Area.
- Policies also ensure other regionally significant surf breaks are provided with a very high, but slightly lesser, level of protection.
- Because of this high level of protection certain types of activities will be restricted in the vicinity of these surf breaks. As such, it is important to ensure that those breaks identified as regionally significant do in fact warrant this classification and level of protection.
- Feedback on the draft plan suggested a number of additional surf breaks they considered should be added as regionally significant and submitters questioned what criteria was used to determine whether a surf break was regionally significant.
- Council has commissioned an expert consultant to assist with firstly developing criteria for determining which surf breaks are regionally significant and then to apply the criteria to the known surf breaks to develop a list of regionally significant breaks.
- An online survey is being developed to enable community input into the process. Two separate groups will be surveyed, the community at large and an 'expert panel'. The survey is intended to capture the views of anyone in the community who values the 'waves' including swimmers, photographers, surf life savers, picnickers and of course surfers.

- The first stage of developing criteria for determining regionally significant surf breaks has been completed. The consultant has identified 10 key attributes, or reasons, why a surf break might be considered regionally important. Questions on these attributes will be included in the community survey for respondents to identify why a particular surf break is valued.
- In terms of the process from here:
  - over the next month Council officers will finalise the list of known surf breaks and complete the online survey;
  - the survey will then go live and run for approximately 6 weeks. Promotion of the survey will be undertaken at the beginning of this period;
  - the consultant will then apply the criteria developed to determine regionally significant surf breaks to the list of known surf breaks taking into account the community survey information collected and recommend a list of regionally significant surf breaks.
- The consultant's report will be presented to this committee once completed. The report will inform the section 32 evaluation and the list of regionally significant surf breaks will be incorporated into the draft Plan for members' consideration.

## Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives this memorandum and notes the work currently being undertaken to develop criteria for determining which surf breaks are regionally significant
2. notes that the consultant report will inform the section 32 evaluation and a revised draft Coastal Plan.

## Background

Taranaki's coastline is unique for its numerous high quality surf breaks. These breaks are currently protected through the *Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki 2010* (RPS). The RPS broke new ground nationally by identifying and protecting 80 'high quality or high value surf breaks' within the statutory document.

The surf breaks are identified in Appendix II '*High quality or high value areas of the coastal environment*' of the RPS and are most directly protected by CNC Policy 4 which recognises that certain parts of the coastal environment are important to the region for their particular values, including recreational values, and are deserving of added protection.

### *"CNC Policy 4*

*Areas within the coastal environment of importance to the region will be identified and priority given to protection of the natural character, ecological and amenity values of such areas from any adverse effects arising from inappropriate subdivision, use and development. In the assessment of areas of importance, matters to be considered will include:*

...

*(d) scenic sites and recreational sites of outstanding or regional or national significance."*

The surf breaks mapped within the RPS were identified by local surfers through the public review process for the RPS. All surf breaks identified at that time were included and no

further information on their characteristics or other rationale for regional significance was considered necessary at the time.

#### New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement

The *New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010* (NZCPS) took effect shortly after the RPS became operative. The NZCPS identified four surf breaks, which had already been included in the RPS, as '*surf breaks of national significance*' and provided for their protection through Policy 16 of the NZCPS.

#### ***Policy 16 Surf breaks of national significance***

*Protect the surf breaks of national significance for surfing listed in Schedule 1, by:*

- (a) *ensuring that activities in the coastal environment do not adversely affect the surf breaks;*  
*and*
- (b) *avoiding adverse effects of other activities on access to, and use and enjoyment of the surf breaks.*

These nationally significant surf breaks have been provided with the highest level of protection possible '*do not adversely affect*' and '*avoiding adverse effects*'.

#### Coastal plan review

Council is currently reviewing its *Regional Coastal Plan for Taranaki* and the *draft Coastal Plan for Taranaki* (draft Plan) was released for consultation in September 2017. The Resource Management Act 1991 requires that regional coastal plans give effect to both the RPS and the NZCPS. The draft Plan achieves this through *Policy 16: Surf breaks and Nationally Significant Surfing Area*.

#### ***Policy 16: Surf breaks and Nationally Significant Surfing Area***

*To protect surf breaks and their use and enjoyment from adverse effects of other activities by:*

- (a) *avoiding adverse effects on:*
  - (i) *all nationally significant surf breaks as identified in Schedule 4; and*
  - (ii) *all nationally and regionally significant surf breaks within the designated Nationally Significant Surfing Area as identified in Schedule 4;*
- (b) *giving priority to avoiding adverse effects on all regionally significant surf breaks, identified in Schedule 4, that are outside the Nationally Significant Surfing Area;*
- (c) *within the Nationally Significant Surfing Area giving priority to:*
  - (i) *avoiding adverse effects on seascape, including development which would have an adverse effect on the remote feel of the area;*
  - (ii) *maintaining and enhancing public access in accordance with Policy 14; and*
  - (iii) *maintaining and enhancing amenity values in accordance with Policy 15*
- (d) *in managing adverse effects in accordance with clauses (a), (b) and (c), having regard to:*
  - (i) *effects on the quality or consistency of the surf break by considering the extent to which the activity may: change or interrupt coastal sediment dynamics; change or interrupt swell within the swell corridor including through the reflection, refraction or diffraction of wave energy; or change the morphology of the foreshore or seabed; and*
  - (ii) *the effects on access to surf breaks and other qualities of surf breaks, including natural character, water quality and amenity values.*

Nationally significant surf breaks are provided with the highest level of protection '*avoid*', as required by the NZCPS, as are all regionally significant surf breaks within the Nationally

Significant Surfing Area. The draft policy also provides other regionally significant surf breaks with a very high, but slightly lesser, level of protection '*priority to avoid*'.

#### Feedback on draft Plan

Feedback on regionally significant surf breaks was received from a number of submitters as part of the draft Plan consultation. In particular respondents suggested a number of additional surf breaks they considered should be added as regionally significant and submitters questioned what criteria was used to determine whether a surf break was regionally significant.

#### Workshops

As part of the development of the draft Plan and prior to finalising Policy 16 above, Dr McComb prepared a report for Council looking at the types of activities that may directly or indirectly have an impact on surf breaks, *Taranaki Surf Breaks of National Significance*. The report was presented at the May 2016 meeting of this committee. One of the recommendations from the report was for a workshop to be held to confirm the location and discuss the unique aspects of the regionally significant surf breaks.

Subsequently a workshop was held in north Taranaki in July 2016. As well as confirming the location of the already mapped breaks this workshop identified an additional 40 surf breaks. The workshop involved a small number of local surfers that were considered by Dr McComb to have extensive knowledge of the surf breaks in the area.

More recently, Council staff have also been working with surfing groups in South Taranaki to confirm the location of the southern surf breaks. Feedback from consultation on the *draft Coastal Plan for Taranaki* and ongoing discussions with surfers indicate there will also be a number of additional breaks to include in this area, however the exact numbers are still to be confirmed.

#### **Study and survey on regionally significant surf breaks**

As previously discussed the draft Plan provides regionally significant surf breaks with a very high level of protection and an increased level of protection compared with those that would be considered 'locally significant'. Because of this high level of protection certain types of activities would be restricted in the vicinity of these breaks. As such, it is important to ensure that those breaks identified as regionally significant do in fact warrant this classification and level of protection. Further work is therefore being undertaken to develop a robust process for identifying regionally significant surf breaks.

Council has commissioned an expert consultant to assist with firstly developing criteria for determining which surf breaks are regionally significant and then to apply the criteria to the known surf breaks to develop a list of regionally significant breaks.

#### Surf break survey

To enable community input into the process Council is developing an online survey. Two separate groups will be surveyed – the community at large and an 'expert panel' made up of a small number of locals with extensive knowledge of surf breaks. Survey participants will be asked to identify which surf breaks are important to them and to answer a number of

questions to explain why. The survey will be widely promoted through known contact lists, local newspapers, social media and website links. The survey is intended to capture the views of anyone in the community who values the 'waves' including swimmers, photographers, surf life savers, picnickers and of course surfers.

The community and expert panel feedback received will be used by the consultant to confirm the list of regionally significant surf breaks.

### Surf break attributes

The first stage of developing criteria for determining regionally significant surf breaks has been completed. The consultant has identified 10 key attributes, or reasons, why a surf break might be considered regionally important. The attributes are as follows:

Attribute	Description
<b>Rarity</b>	how rare is the particular type of break? Types include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• leamer break</li> <li>• big wave break</li> <li>• wind sports break</li> <li>• point break</li> <li>• reef break</li> <li>• river bar break</li> <li>• beach break</li> </ul>
<b>Wave quality</b>	how good is the wave quality – quality is the shape, power, height, length of ride etc?
<b>Wave consistency</b>	how often are the waves good, e.g. how many days in a year?
<b>Uniqueness</b>	are the waves good here when other breaks aren't?
<b>Wilderness</b>	how remote, exposed, inaccessible and 'wild' is the location?
<b>Naturalness</b>	how much has the area been changed by humans? Is there <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• native wildlife</li> <li>• native vegetation i.e. not pasture</li> <li>• good water quality</li> <li>• no buildings or other man made structures, bridges, roads.</li> </ul>
<b>Amenities</b>	to what extent does the location provide <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• facilities - café, toilets, picnic areas, club rooms</li> <li>• services – Surf Life Savers, surfing lessons</li> <li>• easy access, short travel distance from home</li> <li>• good place to view or photograph surf?</li> </ul>
<b>Level of Use</b>	is the surf break popular?
<b>Economic Value</b>	is it a renowned break or visitor attraction, are competitions held bringing people to the region?
<b>Historical and Cultural Association</b>	how important is the site for cultural and historic reasons, including the importance to tangata whenua, historic club associations such as surf life saving or board riding etc?

Further information on the attributes and how they were decided on are included in the consultant's report which will be presented to the committee once completed.

Questions on these attributes will be included in the community survey so that the respondent identifies why a particular surf break is valued.

### **The process from here**

Over the next month Council officers will be working with local surfers to finalise the list of known surf breaks. The online community survey will then be completed and go live. Promotion of the survey will commence and the survey will run for approximately 6 weeks, which should provide plenty of time for residents to respond. Normal survey methods, including modest incentives will be used.

The consultant will then apply the criteria developed to determine regionally significant surf breaks to the list of known surf breaks taking into account the community survey information collected and recommend a list of regionally significant surf breaks

The consultant's report will be presented to this committee once completed. The report will inform the section 32 evaluation and the list of regionally significant surf breaks will be incorporated into the draft Plan.

### **Decision-making considerations**

Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the *Local Government Act 2002* has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the *Act*.

### **Financial considerations—LTP/Annual plan**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

### **Policy considerations**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

### **Legal considerations**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

## Agenda Memorandum

**Date** 14 March 2017



**Memorandum to  
Chairperson and Members  
Policy and Planning Committee**

**Subject: Taranaki Regional Council requirements  
for good farm management**

**Approved by:** AD McLay, Director - Resource Management

BG Chamberlain, Chief Executive

**Document:** 1825823

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### **Purpose**

The purpose of this memorandum is to introduce a draft booklet outlining the Council's requirements for good farm management in Taranaki and to recommend its adoption by the Council.

A copy of the booklet is attached separate to the Agenda.

### **Executive summary**

In late 2015 the Council decided not to formally notify its *Freshwater and Land Management Plan* but to continue with further review work and engagement with a view to having a revised version of the plan notified around 2020.

The Council's position is that further gains in freshwater and land management can be made in the meantime supported by our current policies and programmes which give the Council some scope to make adjustments in its approach. In addition, the direction of travel in a number of important areas has been clearly signalled to the farming community over a number of years now.

The Council has therefore produced the attached booklet spelling out what its requirements are for good farm management in Taranaki going forward. It will ensure consistency in what is required to meet Council requirements for a wide range of farming activities ranging from the treatment and disposal of farm dairy effluent to the installation of culverts and bridges.

The style of the document is suited to its target audience of farmers and contractors.

### **Recommendations**

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the memorandum *Taranaki Regional Council requirements for good farm management*

2. adopts the document *Taranaki Regional Council requirements for good farm management in Taranaki*, incorporating changes agreed to by the Committee.

## **Background**

Members will recall during the Council's last term, the considerable work that was undertaken on the review of the Council's *Regional Fresh Water Plan* and *Regional Soil Plan* leading to the release in late 2015 of a draft *Freshwater and Land Management Plan for Taranaki*.

The outcome of the Council's consultation processes on the draft *Freshwater and Land Management Plan* were positive in that they supported the excellent gains made in freshwater management over the years. However, there were several areas where further investigations and engagement with iwi were required to address issues raised, some of which were the result of ongoing debates or changes in freshwater management policy at the national level.

The Council decided to continue with further review work and engagement with a view to having a revised version of the plan notified around 2020.

In the meantime, the Council will continue with the excellent progress that it has made on freshwater and land management. Industry, the agricultural sector and the community have all invested heavily in freshwater management over the years and the Council and the community at large want to see this continue into the future.

The Council's current policies and programmes give the Council some scope to make adjustments to its freshwater management regime in order to achieve further gains in freshwater management. In addition, the direction of travel in a number of important areas has been clearly signalled to the farming community over a number of years now and are being implemented.

The Council has therefore produced the attached booklet spelling out what its requirements are for good farm management in Taranaki going forward. It will ensure consistency in what is required to meet Council requirements for a wide range of farming activities ranging from the treatment and disposal of farm dairy effluent to the installation of culverts and bridges.

The implementation of the requirements set out in the attached booklet represent cost-effective, scientifically based solutions.

Feedback has been received from Cr Michael Joyce and Cr Donald McIntyre on a draft document. There will be further review and editing changes prior to the document being finalised.

## **The requirements document**

Members will note that the style of the document is suited to its primary target audience – farmers and contractors. The A5 format has proved successful with earlier guidelines developed by the Council when our plans were first prepared. They are designed to fit in the glovebox of the farm ute or storage compartment of a quad bike or tractor and therefore be available for reference when out on the farm. It will also be available on-line.

Unlike our formal plans the booklet focuses on typical farming activities with a clear layout of 'Key points' and a 'What you need to ensure' sections under each activity. The use of plain



English language is also a feature. Every effort has been made to keep the list of requirements and explanations to the minimum necessary with the usual warnings that if readers have any questions or doubts about what the requirements are to contact Council staff (or visit the Council's website) for more information or to discuss what is expected.

The use of photos throughout the document to show good practice examples emphasises what can and is being done to improve water and land management in Taranaki.

Members will see from the attached booklet that there is a wide range of activities relating to farming that are dealt with in the document.

The treatment and disposal of farm dairy effluent is a major focus for the Council in delivering gains for water quality over the next few years. The requirements document clearly signals that land-based treatment and disposal of farm dairy effluent will be required in all but exceptional cases. In areas where land-based disposal is not suitable or appropriate at all times (for example in high rainfall areas on the upper ring plain with high drainage density and steep terrain) a treated contingency discharge to water may be allowed as part of the land discharge consent.

The switch to land-based disposal (which is already well underway in Taranaki) will occur within reasonable timeframes as consents come up for renewal.

Some farms may have to upgrade their pond systems to ensure they have adequate storage for land-based disposal while others may need to look at their pond linings to ensure the permeability of the pond-sealing layer meets industry best practice. Existing oxidation ponds have been assessed as providing suitable storage for a land based discharge system.

There is strong industry support for land-based systems and the Council has been delivering a clear message that land-based disposal of farm dairy effluent is the way of the future.

Another area where Council requirements have tightened up is in relation to wetland areas on the ring plain. These are ecosystems or habitats that are now scarce on the ring plain yet they play a vital role in regulating water flows, improving water quality and providing habitat for many native plants and animals. The requirements document signals that a resource consent will now generally be required for activities that adversely affect wetlands on the ring plain. Many of these wetland areas are already being protected under the Council's voluntary riparian management programme or through schedules in the current *Fresh Water Plan*.

With respect to the riparian management programme, the requirements document notes that most farmers are well on the way to completely protecting waterways on their property by the end of the decade. It also notes that those lagging behind are likely to face regulatory measures from as early as 2020 when the Council plans to release its *Freshwater and Land Management Plan*. This has also been the subject of regular advice to the farming community over the last few years and was signalled in the draft *Freshwater and Land Management Plan* released in 2015.

We expect that only a small proportion of dairy farmers will be subject to costly regulation on this issue.

Other areas where clear guidance on Council requirements has been provided include water takes, stream crossings, silage pits and feedlots and forestry logging, among others.

Central government requirements that could override our own local requirements have been noted in the document. These concern in particular, proposed regulations relating to stock exclusion from waterways and a proposed national environmental standard for production forestry.

### **Decision-making considerations**

Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the *Local Government Act 2002* has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the *Act*.

### **Financial considerations—LTP/Annual plan**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

### **Policy considerations**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

### **Legal considerations**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

### **Attachment**

[Document 1830260: Taranaki Regional Council requirements for good farm management in Taranaki](#)

See final page of this agenda document for link to above attachment

## Agenda Memorandum

**Date** 14 March 2017



**Memorandum to  
Chairperson and Members  
Policy and Planning Committee**

**Subject: Ministry for the Environment 'Clean Water' consultation document**

**Approved by:** AD McLay, Director – Resource Management

BG Chamberlain, Chief Executive

**Document:** 1829183

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### Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to introduce the Ministry for the Environment's consultation document entitled '*Clean Water: 90% of rivers swimmable by 2040*', and to seek early feedback from Members on the document prior to the closing date for submissions.

Submissions close on 28 April 2017.

### Executive summary

The 'Clean Waters' consultation document is the latest piece of work by the Government in its ongoing programme of water reform. It follows on from the '*Next steps for freshwater*' consultation document released in early 2016.

There are five key components to the current programme outlined in the document. They are: a new target that 90% of rivers and lakes (as defined by MfE) are swimmable by 2040; new maps and information on prevailing water quality for swimming as categorised by MfE; changes to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management including water quality requirements for recreation, nutrient limits and ecological health; criteria for allocation of the \$100 million addition to the Freshwater Improvement Fund, and details of new national stock exclusion regulations.

Staff have not had time to undertake a detailed analysis of the proposals and therefore only brief comments are provided on the contents of the consultation document. Staff will undertake a more thorough examination of the paper over the next few weeks in putting together a submission.

### Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the memorandum Ministry for the Environment '*Clean Water*' consultation document;

2. notes the Committee has provided feedback on matters that may be included in a submission.

## **Background**

The 'Clean Waters' consultation document is the latest piece of work by the Government in its ongoing programme of water reform. It follows on from the '*Next steps for freshwater*' consultation document released in early 2016.

There are five key components to the current programme outlined in the document. They are:

- a new target that 90% of rivers and lakes are swimmable by 2040;
- new maps and information on current water quality for swimming;
- changes to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management including water quality requirements for recreation, nutrients and ecological health;
- criteria for allocation of the \$100 million Freshwater Improvement Fund; and
- details of new national stock exclusion regulations.

In addition the document touches on future work that is already underway on freshwater management including better allocation of freshwater, the development of good management practices (in both urban and rural situations) and research on land and water as part of the National Science Challenge.

There has not been time for staff to undertake a detailed analysis of the proposals and therefore only brief comments are provided on the contents of the consultation document. Staff will undertake a more thorough examination of the paper over the next few weeks in putting together a submission.

What is clear however, is that there will be resourcing and procedural implications for the Council in implementing the proposed changes and this will be highlighted in our submission and in reports to the Council.

## **90% of rivers and lakes swimmable by 2040**

The Government has set a goal that 90% of rivers and lakes will meet swimmable water quality standards by 2040. Achieving this target will come at an estimated cost to farmers, councils and the Government of \$2 billion over the next 23 years and is to be achieved predominantly through riparian fencing and planting.

There are issues around the sources of data used in the discussion document, the definition of 'swimmable' (and whether this is a good measure of water quality overall) and the costs of achieving the target relative to the benefits to be gained.

With respect to Taranaki, it comes as no surprise to find us sitting in the same grouping as for example the Waikato and Manawatu-Wanganui regions where geography and climate, as well as land use affect rankings. We have consistently reminded the Government of the

problems with using data based on land use and climate modelling, rather than actual measurements from monitoring, and the use of year-round data regardless of river flows or prevailing weather or likely actual recreational usage.

Our state of the environment monitoring of popular freshwater bathing sites in Taranaki, conducted according to MfE's own 2003 protocols shows over 90% of bathing water samples are within Ministry guidelines and the vast majority of samples that lie outside the guidelines are due to faecal contamination from wildfowl and seagulls. Sites sampled include many at the middle or lower end of catchments.

The Government has indicated that they will require regional councils to tell them how the national swimmability target can be supported at a regional level, including the water bodies identified for improvement, the likely costs and impacts on their communities. The deadline for this report is October 2017 (draft) and March 2018 (final). This analysis will be dependant on many factors which will be outlined in our submission.

### **Better information on water quality for swimming**

The maps used to assess water quality for swimming use a combination of data including data from modelling of waterways. As previously noted, we have questions around the accuracy and meaningfulness of the data.

Furthermore, few of the rivers included in the maps correspond with the Council's monitored freshwater bathing spots as used by the communities of the region.

The consultation document proposes much more onerous requirements for monitoring and notifying freshwater quality for swimmability both during designated bathing seasons and all year round. On first glance, these have significant resourcing implications for the Council.

### **Amending the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014**

A number of amendments are proposed to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM). These include changes to the following:

- changes to swimming and recreational values and numerical criteria in the NPS-FM including removing the reference to managing freshwater bodies so they are safe for boating and wading to make it explicit that regional councils must improve the suitability of waterways for swimming;
- requiring regional councils to monitor macroinvertebrates in appropriate rivers;
- spatially limiting the concept of 'maintain or improve' (water quality) to within a freshwater management unit;
- requiring in-stream limits for nitrogen and phosphorus if managing periphyton;
- clarifying the consideration of economic opportunities;
- clarifying the policy on exceptions to national bottom lines caused either by naturally occurring processes or infrastructure;

- clarifying the inclusion of coastal lakes and lagoons; and
- strengthening references to 'Te mana o te Wai'.

A number of these proposals were dealt with in the *Next steps for freshwater* consultation last year with some changes proposed as a result of submissions. The major change is the introduction of new limits and targets for swimmability replacing the previous references to secondary contact (boating and wading).

The Draft Regulatory Impact Statement accompanying the proposed amendments to the NPS-FW concedes that there are gaps in the analysis and that evidence supporting some options is limited. It also states that in some instances they are working from incomplete information or are addressing risks that may not have yet been borne out.

Furthermore, there is an acknowledgement that amendments to the NPS-FW concerning swimmability will create added costs for regional councils and landowners to improve the quality of waterbodies so that are swimmable more often and that further analysis is required to assess and quantify these additional costs.

Good evidence is the basis of good policy and this admission of limited evidence or a lack of information is of concern to the Council.

The Council also has reservations about the application of set limits for macroinvertebrate monitoring around the country. While the Council sees macroinvertebrate monitoring as the ideal tool for monitoring trends in ecosystem health, it has serious concerns with introducing it as part of a national monitoring and reporting tool because of the wide range of factors that drive what an MCI value should be for any given waterway.

The Council would need to look in more detail at what is proposed for setting nutrient limits for nitrogen and phosphorus.

At this stage, it appears that proposed changes to the 'maintain or improve' water quality policies could allow an unders and overs approach to apply within each freshwater management unit in Taranaki. This was something that was sought in our earlier submission. However, there may still be uncertainty as to how a region will be able to demonstrate that it has achieved maintenance or improvement of overall water quality. This needs to be made clear as case law to date suggests that in some circumstances at least this would not apply. The prospect of legal challenge on this point is very real for councils.

### **Stock exclusion**

The consultation document continues the Government's commitment to introduce regulations to exclude stock from waterbodies from 2017. This would apply to dairy cows and pigs on all land (regardless of slope) from 1 July 2017 and then progressively to dairy support, deer and beef cattle on all land out to 2030. The ability to make regulations on stock exclusion from waterbodies is provided for under the Resource Legislation Amendment Bill currently before Parliament.

The Council opposed national regulations addressing stock exclusion from waterways arguing that that regional programmes supported by regional plans and regional regulation are better placed to tailor stock exclusion and riparian management to their local situations.

The Council also opposed the application of stock exclusion on steeper land (16 degrees and over) on the basis that farmer compliance costs will significantly outweigh the environmental benefits of these measures.

The Council has argued that if introduced, national regulations must recognise and must not undermine existing programmes such as this Council's riparian management programme.

The draft NPS proposes universal riparian/stock management planning obligations for farmers and aligned certification obligations for the Council. This is another area where there will be significant resourcing implications for the Council in implementing the regulations.

### **Freshwater Improvement Fund**

An additional \$100 million has been added to the Freshwater Improvement Fund on top of the \$350 million already committed.

The Council had earlier supported the proposed Freshwater Improvement Fund but noted that the Council had not received funding in the past (largely because we are doing our job). However, the Council acknowledged that there may be opportunities to access the fund in future.

### **Future work programme**

Three streams of national-level work beyond 2017 have been identified. These are in freshwater allocation, the development of good management practices, and furthering research in land and water management.

Better allocation of freshwater to make sure freshwater resources are used more efficiently and equitably will present difficulties in finding national level regulatory solutions.

Government support for good management practices – both urban and rural – is welcomed. More effort and focus in this area over the years may well have dampened the need for the blunt national regulatory solutions that we are now seeing.

### **Decision-making considerations**

Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the *Local Government Act 2002* has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the *Act*.

### **Financial considerations—LTP/Annual plan**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

### **Policy considerations**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

### **Legal considerations**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

### **Attachments**

The 'Clean Water' consultation document can be viewed on the Ministry for the Environment's website at

<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/sites/default/files/media/Fresh%20water/clean-water.pdf>

A media release from the Minister for the Environment can be viewed at

<https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/90-rivers-and-lakes-swimmable-2040>

A Questions and Answers document can be found at

[https://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/1%20Q&As\\_0.pdf](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/1%20Q&As_0.pdf)



## Agenda Memorandum

**Date** 14 March 2017

**Memorandum to  
Chairperson and Members  
Policy & Planning Committee**



**Subject: *Resource Management (Exemption)  
Regulations 2017 – Pest Control***

**Approved by:** S R Hall, Director-Operations  
B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

**Document:** 1828452

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### **Purpose**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide for member's information an update of the regulations recently introduced by the Government to streamline the regulatory regime in respect of the use of hazardous vertebrate toxic agents (VTAs) for pest control.

### **Executive summary**

- In 2011 the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment recommended that the Minister simplify and standardise how poisons for pest mammal control are managed under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and other relevant legislation. The Commissioner found that there were high levels of duplication between national and local regulations.
- In 2016, the Ministry for the Environment released a discussion document, which proposed the streamlining of the regulatory regime for pest control. On behalf of the regional councils, LGNZ developed a submission on the discussion document that was supportive of the government's proposal, with some exceptions. This Council had input into the LGNZ submission and members received information on the issue through this committee in June 2016.
- In Taranaki, the application of VTAs is managed as a permitted activity rule (subject to certain standards and terms and conditions in relation to the operator) for which no resource consent is generally required. However, in other regions the activity may require a resource consent.
- Seventy per cent of submissions favoured the proposed change. The new national regulations – the *Resource Management (Exemption) Regulations 2017* – come into effect on 1 April 2017.
- The main exemptions provided are for brodifacoum, rotenone, and sodium fluoroacetate (otherwise known as "1080"). The discharge of a VTA, pre-feed, or repellent is exempt from section 15 of the Act as long as the discharge is for the purpose of killing vertebrate pests or introduced fish and other specified conditions are satisfied (Schedule 2).

## Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council-

1. receive the memorandum *Resource Management (Exemption) Regulations 2017 – Pest Control*
2. note that the new regulations come into force on 1 April 2017 and will standardise the national approach for using VTA poisons for pest management as requested through the consultation process undertaken in 2016
3. note that the new regulations broadly align and are consistent with the Council's current approach whereby the application of VTAs in the Taranaki region is a permitted activity.

## Background

In 2011 the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment recommended that the Minister "...investigate ways to simplify and standardise the way 1080 and other poisons for pest mammal control are managed under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and other relevant legislation." The report found that there are high levels of duplication between the national and local regulation, including the RMA and the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO).

This inconsistency is particularly important in respect of aerial 1080, because it creates potential for a breach of consent conditions, which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) treats as an 'adverse incident'. A recurrence of these incidents leads to the imposition of further controls under HSNO and can result in reduced availability of 1080 as a pest management tool.<sup>1</sup>

The Commissioner also found that different councils treat the use of poisons for controlling pest mammals differently. For example, some treat the use of poison as a permitted activity (for which no resource consent is required), while others treat it as a discretionary activity requiring resource consent.

The Ministry for the Environment subsequently began a consultation process and released a discussion document for consultation in April 2016. The discussion document included proposals on streamlining the regulatory regime pest control, including the conditions and circumstances under which VTAs are used. The proposal was that national regulation under the RMA would take the place of regional rules, resolve duplication between different legislative regimes, and save costs.

This Council supported the proposal through input into a regional sector submission made by Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ). Officers provided information on the Government's proposal to members of the Policy and Planning Committee in June 2016. While generally supportive of the Government's proposal, the regional sector submission highlighted concerns about: timing of the changes; mechanisms as to the addition or removal of specific VTAS; limited notification provisions; product conditions; and cost recovery options for compliance monitoring. None of these issues have been addressed in the new regulations.

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<sup>1</sup> Ministry for the Environment, 2016, *Streamlining the regulatory regime for pest control consultation document*. Wellington: Ministry for the Environment, p 8.

In Taranaki, the application of VTAs is managed as a permitted activity rule (subject to certain standards and terms and conditions in relation to the operator) for which no resource consent is generally required.

Seventy per cent of submissions on the Government's proposals favoured the proposed change. The new national regulations – the *Resource Management (Exemption) Regulations 2017* – come into effect on 1 April 2017.

### **Resource Management (Exemption) Regulations 2017 – Pest Control**

The new regulations are made under section 360(1)(h) of the Resource Management Act 1991 (the Act), which provides that the Governor-General may prescribe exemptions from any provision of section 15 of the Act. Section 15 of the Act governs the discharge of contaminants into the environment. The regulations come into force on 1 April 2017.

The main exemptions provided are for three vertebrate toxic agents (VTAs): brodifacoum, rotenone, and sodium fluoroacetate (otherwise known as “1080”). The discharge of a VTA is exempt from section 15 of the Act as long as–

- the discharge is for the purpose of killing vertebrate pests or introduced fish; and
- other specified conditions are satisfied.

The discharge of pre-feed and repellent used in association with a VTA is also exempt as long as specified conditions are satisfied.

The Regulation's specified conditions are as follows:

1. *Notice of proposed discharge*: requires that the proposed discharge must contain certain information and be given no later than 48 hours before the discharge starts. The information must cover:
  - a. The objectives of the proposed discharge;
  - b. The VTA, pre-feed, or repellent to be used;
  - c. The bait, delivery method, application rate, or lures to be used;
  - d. A map showing boundaries of proposed discharge area;
  - e. The location of any warning signs for each proposed discharge area;
  - f. The period during which the proposed discharge will occur in each proposed discharge area;
  - g. The name and contact details of the operator and, if the operator is acting for another person, that other person.
2. *Compliance with notice of proposed discharge*: The operator must ensure that the discharge complies with the information in the notice of the proposed discharge.
3. *Notice of actual discharge*: The operator must give notice to the relevant regional council with the information covered in 1(d) and (f) above no later than 20 working days after the discharge ends. (Schedule 2)

The regulations provide a national approach for the use of VTA poisons like 1080 and brodifacoum. The Government believes the change will reduce costs and delays for operators, ensure consistent conditions throughout the country, reduce mistakes from misunderstanding rule differences and allow the use of best practice approaches such as that taken by the Taranaki Regional Council.

The implications for this Council going forward is that the current permitted activity rule for the discharge of these pesticides, as contained in the Freshwater Plan, will become unnecessary. Furthermore, the use of some VTAs such as 1080 has been very contentious in the past and the regulations avoid re-litigating the debate and science during the public process associated with the development and review of regional plans.

The Government is aware of the public opposition to poisons like 1080 and brodifacoum but considers that they are essential tools for pest control in New Zealand. Risks around the use of these poisons will continue to be managed effectively by the HSNO Act 1996.

### **Decision-making considerations**

Part 6 of the *Local Government Act 2002* (planning, decision-making and accountability) has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the *Act*.

### **Financial considerations—LTP/Annual plan**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

### **Policy considerations**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Biosecurity Act 1993*.

### **Legal considerations**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

## Agenda Memorandum

**Date** 14 March 2017



**Memorandum to  
Chairperson and Members  
Policy and Planning Committee**

**Subject: Submission on King Edward Park  
Reserve Management Plan**

**Approved by:** A D McLay, Director – Resource Management  
B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

**Document:** 1823275

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### **Purpose**

The purpose of this memorandum is to introduce a submission made to the Stratford District Council on the King Edward Park Reserve Management Plan and to recommend its endorsement by the Council.

Submissions closed on 17 February. A draft submission was circulated to Members prior to the closing date.

A copy of the submission is attached to this memorandum for Members' information.

### **Executive summary**

The Stratford District Council has prepared a draft Reserve Management Plan for King Edward Park and has called for public submissions.

King Edward Park has significance for this Council as one of its Key Native Ecosystems.

The Council's submission has suggested some wording changes to sections of the draft plan dealing with flora, fauna and biodiversity and policies dealing with exotic tree collections. In response to a specific request from the Stratford District Council, it has also provided feedback on priorities for future action.

### **Recommendations**

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the memorandum Submission on King Edward Park Reserve Management Plan
2. endorses the submission.

## **Background**

In 2011 the Stratford District Council adopted a District-wide Reserve Management Plan for all reserve owned or administered by the Council.

The Stratford District Council subsequently decided to carry out a review of the District-wide Management Plan as it affects King Edward Park and adopt an individual Management Plan for the park.

In April 2016, the Council provided comment on the proposal for a review of the reserve management plan for King Edward Park and has again taken the opportunity to submit on the draft plan that has now been prepared.

King Edward Park has significance for this Council as a Key Native Ecosystem (KNE). The Council has prepared a biodiversity plan for the park which will be progressively implemented over the coming months and years.

## **The Submission**

The submission congratulates the Stratford District Council on a thorough and well written reserve management plan.

The Council's submission has suggested some wording changes to sections of the draft plan dealing with flora, fauna and biodiversity. In some cases, for example in the section dealing with Waterways, the Council supports the policy position taken.

Given the wider aesthetic, scenic and recreational values of the park, the Council has also commented on policies concerning exotic tree collections and landscaping.

The Stratford District Council has sought particular feedback on the 'Actions and responsibilities' chapter of the draft plan seeking feedback on what the priorities should be. The Council has indicated that the action 'Develop and implement biodiversity plan' should have a high priority as the plan has been completed and implementation will be the next stage.

## **Decision-making considerations**

Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the *Local Government Act 2002* has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the *Act*.

## **Financial considerations—LTP/Annual plan**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

## **Policy considerations**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks

including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

**Legal considerations**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

**Attachments**

Document 1798783: King Edward Park Reserve Management Plan

9 February 2017  
Document: 1798783

Chief Executive  
Stratford District Council  
PO Box 320  
Stratford 4352

## King Edward Park Reserve Management Plan

### Introduction

1. The Taranaki Regional Council (the Council) thanks the Stratford District Council for the opportunity to make a submission on the Draft King Edward Park Reserve Management Plan.
2. The Council makes this submission in recognition of the purpose of local government set out in the Local Government Act 2002, and the role, status, powers and principles under that Act relating to local authorities. In particular, the Council's comments are made in recognition of its:
  - functions and responsibilities under the *Resource Management Act 1991* and *Biosecurity Act 1993*; and
  - and its regional advocacy responsibilities whereby the Council represents the Taranaki region on matters of regional significance or concern.
3. The Council has also been guided by its Mission Statement '*To work for a thriving and prosperous Taranaki*' across all of its various functions, roles and responsibilities, in making this submission.
4. The Council provided comment in April 2016 on proposals for a review of the reserve management plan for King Edward Park. The Council appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft plan that has now been prepared.
5. The Council congratulates the Stratford District Council on a very thorough and well written reserve management plan for King Edward Park. The Council is supportive of much of the draft plan and its comments are mostly of a minor or technical nature. As is indicated in the draft plan, the park is 'one of the jewels' within Stratford's reserve portfolio with a number of valuable natural, recreational, historical, social and cultural values present. Indigenous biodiversity values within the park are significant with parts of the park recognised by the Council as a Key Native Ecosystem (KNE).



6. The remaining parts of this submission follow the headings of the draft reserve management plan.

### **Planning framework**

7. The Council appreciates recognition in section 1.5.1 of the various plans and strategies prepared by the Council that has influenced the development of the draft reserve management plan.
8. The Council also appreciates recognition of the Biodiversity Plan prepared by the Council for the King Edward Park Key Native Ecosystem (KNE) and looks forward to both councils working together on implementation of the biodiversity plan.
9. Under 'TRC Pest Animal Strategy' the following sentence could be added:

*'The Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Animals will be replaced in 2017 by the Pest Management Plan for Taranaki'.*
10. A similar addition could be made under 'TRC Pest Plant Strategy'.

### **Flora, fauna and biodiversity**

11. The first paragraph in section 3.2.1 could be reworded to read;

*'The areas of native forest within King Edward Park have been included in the Taranaki Regional Council's Key Native Ecosystem inventory'.*
12. This clarifies the areas of the park to which the KNE applies.
13. The fourth bullet point under the Objectives could be reworded to read:

*'To control, as much as practicable all pest ...'*
14. To eradicate all pests from the park will require a very high degree of management and ongoing monitoring.

### **Waterways**

15. The Council supports the prohibition of the taking of native fish from waterways within the park expressed in section 3.2.2 and in policy.
16. The Council also supports the second bullet point under Policies that no activity in the reserve will be approved if there is a possibility of a measurable adverse effect on water quality or aquatic ecosystems.

## Trees and gardens

17. The use of the description of 'isolated trees and shrubs' throughout section 3.2.3 could be changed to 'specimen trees'.

18. The first bullet point under the Objectives could be reworded to read:

*'To preserve and maintain the existing native and exotic specimen trees and to consider landscape implications and planting opportunities as trees are removed from time to time for reasons of their failing health.'*

19. Under Policies consideration could be given to including another policy along the following lines (or similar):

*'Consideration will be given to the collection of exotic trees situated throughout the cultivated areas of the park, in order to plan and maintain a healthy, functional and culturally and visually appealing collection.'*

20. These changes would specifically recognise the contribution that exotic species make to the wider cultural and visual appeal of the park.

21. The second bullet point under Policies could be reworded to read as follows (or similar):

*'Any trees that need to be removed due to failing health from areas primarily in native forest cover will be replaced with, or left to revert to, appropriate native vegetation.'*

22. This change would provide some added flexibility over the policy in the draft plan, when replacing exotic trees that have been removed because of failing health.

23. The Council notes that it may not be desirable or appropriate to propagate from the Aleppo pine if it becomes infected with certain diseases at some future date. Perhaps the third bullet point under Policies in this section could provide for propagation from this specimen, if appropriate, as a first priority, with the alternative being to replace it with another specimen of the same species or same provenance stock if known elsewhere in New Zealand.

24. On a minor point, the convention for botanical nomenclature is that the first letter of the genus name should be a capital (e.g. *Pinus halepensis*).

## Landscapes

25. This section identifies values in views towards the mountain and along rivers within the park. It could be useful to include a paragraph in section 3.2.4 acknowledging the value and importance of the more formal cultivated areas of the park itself and adjacent school grounds, with views dominated by sweeping lawns and paths, specimen trees and border gardens of predominantly exotic vegetation. These areas

often compliment the natural native forest and riverine landscapes and help to soften views that might incorporate built elements such as sports facilities and buildings.

26. The Objectives and Policies in this section could provide for the maintenance, enhancement and further development of these areas in keeping with established themes (or carefully considered new landscape themes).

### **Actions and responsibilities**

27. The one area under Part 4 of the draft plan that identifies a role for this Council is a joint role with the Stratford District Council to develop and implement a biodiversity plan for the park. The Council considers this should be given a priority of 1 (actions over 1 to 3 years) as the plan has been completed and implementation for this important KNE will be the next stage.

### **Conclusions**

28. The Taranaki Regional Council again thanks the Stratford District Council for the opportunity to comment on the Draft King Edward Park Reserve Management Plan.

Yours faithfully  
BG Chamberlain  
**Chief Executive**

per: A D McLay  
**Director - Resource Management**

## Agenda Memorandum

**Date** 14 March 2017



**Memorandum to  
Chairperson and Members  
Policy & Planning Committee**

**Subject: Key Native Ecosystems programme  
update 2017**

**Approved by:** S R Hall, Director - Operations  
B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

**Document:** 1822298

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### **Purpose**

The purpose of this memorandum is to present for Members' information an update on the identification of seven new Key Native Ecosystem (KNE) sites.

### **Executive summary**

- The Council's *Operational Strategy to Guide Biodiversity Actions of the Taranaki Regional Council* ('the Biodiversity Strategy') sets out four strategic priorities, one of which relates to the Council focusing on protecting KNEs on privately owned land.
- The Council's approach to protecting KNEs is ongoing. Officers work with interested landowners and community groups to promote the voluntary protection and enhancement of ecological values associated with these sites. New sites are identified and assessed, in relation to their regional significance, and/or existing information and databases are updated.
- Protection of KNEs is part of the Council's **non-regulatory** work. Protection is implemented through the preparation and implementation of biodiversity plans, the provision of environmental enhancement grant funding, and/or assisting with pest and weed control.
- Council officers have recently investigated a further seven sites as noted in this memorandum and recommend they be adopted as a KNE. All the sites are assessed as significant in accordance with criteria set out in the *Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki* (2010), i.e. rarity and distinctiveness, representativeness or ecological context.
- As at 28 February 2017, the Council has identified 225 KNEs (covering approximately 121,933 hectares). A total of 179 of these sites are partially or completely privately owned (covering approximately 12,018 hectares). The seven sites referred to in this memorandum comprise 19.9 ha.

## Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives this memorandum and the attached inventory sheets for Paul Dodge – Mataro Road; Rewarewa Bush; John Whittington – Stanley Road; Penwarden; McQuoid QEII 5/06/309; Joe Gibbs Reserve; and P G Nops Reserve.
2. notes that the aforementioned sites have indigenous biodiversity values of regional significance and should be identified as Key Native Ecosystems.

## Background

To assist it in giving effect to its statutory functions for indigenous biodiversity under the Resource Management Act 1991, the Council has adopted *An Operational Strategy to Guide Biodiversity Actions of the Taranaki Regional Council* ('the Biodiversity Strategy'). The Biodiversity Strategy sets out four strategic priorities, one of which relates to the Council focusing on protecting KNEs on privately owned land.

The Council's management approach is to work with interested landowners and community groups, through provision of a property planning service and other assistance, in order to promote the voluntary protection and enhancement of ecological values associated with these sites. The identification of KNEs is ongoing. As the opportunity arises new sites are assessed in relation to their regional significance and/or existing information and databases updated.

Council officers have recently investigated seven sites and recommend they be adopted as a KNE. The candidate sites are: Paul Dodge – Mataro Road; Rewarewa Bush; John Whittington – Stanley Road; Penwarden; McQuoid QEII 5/06/309; Joe Gibbs Reserve; and P G Nops Reserve. All these sites have been assessed as significant in accordance with criteria set out in the *Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki* (2010), i.e. rarity and distinctiveness, representativeness or ecological context.

As at 28 February 2017, the Council has identified 225 KNEs (covering approximately 121,933 hectares). A total of 179 of these sites are partially or completely privately owned (covering approximately 12,018 hectares). The seven sites referred to in this memorandum comprise 19.9 ha.

## KNE site inventory process

Identification of a site as a KNE does not have any extra bearing on the rules or controls that already apply to such sites in regional or district council plans. Identification of sites is undertaken by the Council to focus its **non-regulatory** efforts to work with and support landowners to protect biodiversity values on their land. Protection is implemented through the preparation and implementation of biodiversity plans, the provision of environmental enhancement grant funding, and/or assisting with pest and weed control.

The *2015–2025 Long Term Plan* includes, amongst other things, a target to maintain and regularly update the Council's Inventory of KNEs. Council officers have recently investigated and consulted with landowners to identify another seven sites as KNEs. Copies of the inventory sheets for the new sites are **attached** to this item.

Members will note that the inventory sheets are now prepared in a different format. Since the last programme update in 2016, the Council has implemented an automated reporting process through its IRIS software programme.

### **Decision-making considerations**

Part 6 (Planning, decision-making, and accountability) of the *Local Government Act 2002* has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the *Act*.

### **Financial considerations—LTP/Annual plan**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

### **Policy considerations**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

### **Legal considerations**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

### **Appendices/Attachments**

Document No. 1816436; 1816423; 1819999; 1817220; 1821043; 1821095; and 1821069

## Joe Gibbs Reserve

### At a glance

TRC Reference: BD/9569	LENZ:	F5.2b Acutely threatened
Ecological District: Egmont	National:	Priority 1 – Threatened Land Environment
Land Tenure: District		Priority 4 – Threatened Species
Area(ha): 1.2	Regional:	Potential KNE
GPS: 1704531X & 5664724Y	Regional Ecosystem Loss:	At risk 20-30% left
Bioclimate Zone: Lowland	Protection Status:	Local Government
Habitat: Forest Remnant	Catchment:	Waitara (395)
Ecosystem Type: MF7: Tawa, kamahi, podocarp forest		

### General Description

The Joe Gibbs Reserve is a New Plymouth District Council reserve located on the southern boundary of Inglewood township on the east side of State Highway 3. The reserve is a 1.2 hectare cutover lowland forest remnant with a dominant canopy of tawa. A short public walkway is present in the reserve.

### Ecological Features

#### Flora

The small forest remnant canopy is dominated by large tawa with kamahi also present along the stream margin. The sub canopy is a mix of kanono, mahoe, pate and tree ferns and is reasonably intact. Native vegetation is present as groundcover although weeds such as wandering willy dominate in some areas.

#### Fauna

The reserve provides a small amount of forest habitat for native birds such as the New Zealand pigeon, tui, fantail, grey warbler and silvereye. There is also good habitat for native fish in the Kurapete stream in the reserve which may include notable species. Good habitat for native reptiles is also present.

### Ecological Values

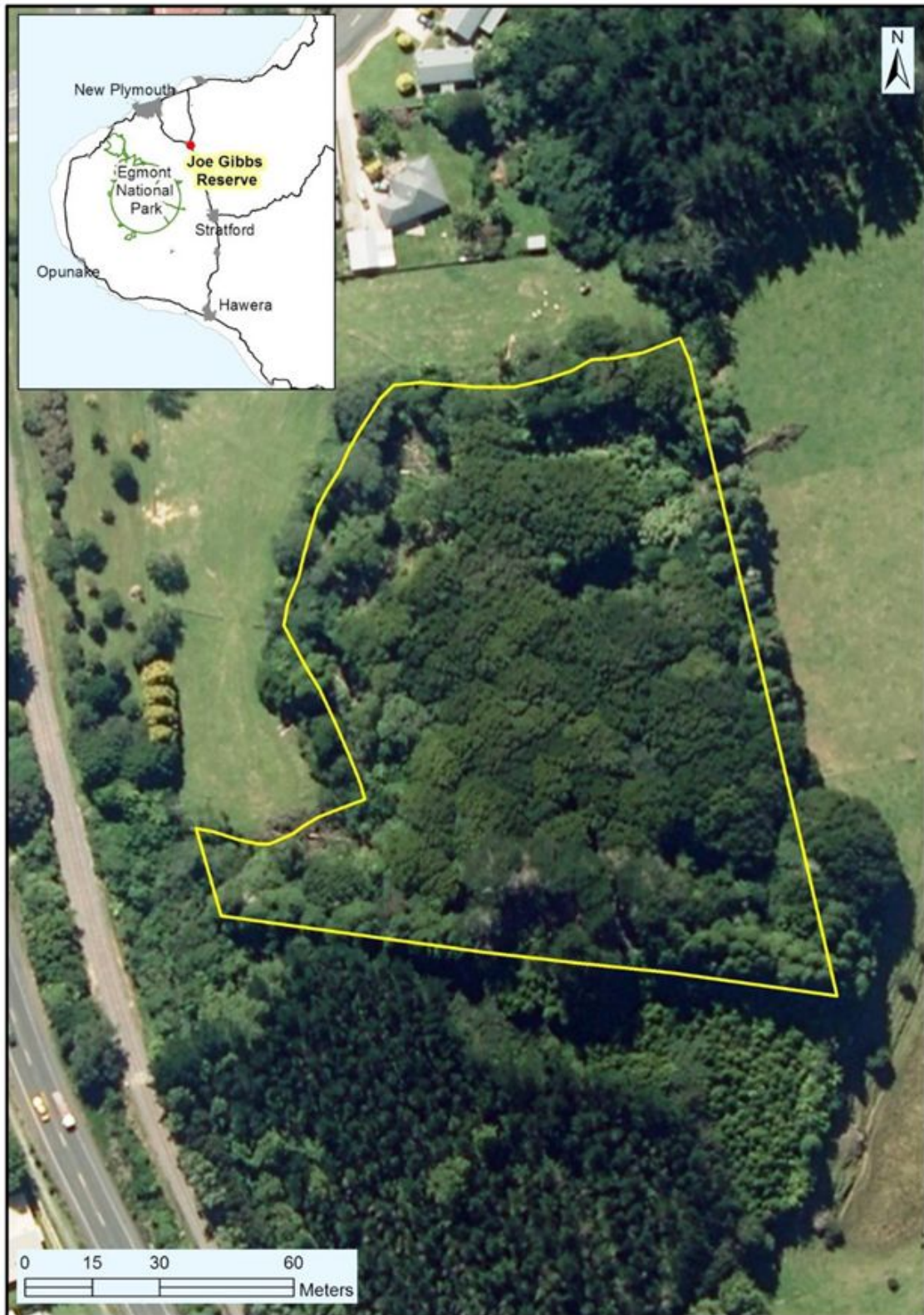
Ecological Context - Medium	Provides connectivity to other habitats and KNE's in the area such as Redpath Bush and Maketawa Stream Forests.
Rarity and Distinctiveness - Medium	Contains the 'At Risk' kingfern and habitat for potential notable native fish species.
Representativeness - High	Contains indigenous vegetation on 'Acutely Threatened' LENZ environment (F5.2a) and is a remnant of a regionally At Risk ecosystem type (MF7-3 Tawa, pukatea, podocarp forest)
Sustainability - Positive	In good vegetative condition. Key ecological processes still influence the site. Under appropriate management, it can remain resilient to existing or potential threats.

### Other Management Issues

Habitat Modification - Medium	Edge effects, walking tracks and cycle paths.
Weeds - High	Extensive weed issues especially ground cover weeds such as wandering willy.
Herbivores - Medium	Currently stock proof and possum numbers appear low. Browsers could have significant impact if fencing was unsure or possum numbers increased.

Predators - Medium

Rodents, mustelids, possums, cats and hedgehogs will be impacting on fauna values at the site.





## P.G Nops Reserve

### At a glance

TRC Reference: BD/9568	LENZ:	F5.2a Acutely threatened
Ecological District: Egmont	National:	Priority 1 – Threatened Land Environment
Land Tenure: District		Priority 4 – Threatened Species
Area(ha): 1.2	Regional:	Potential KNE
GPS: 1704306X & 5664531Y	Regional Ecosystem Loss:	At risk 20-30% left
Bioclimate Zone: Lowland	Protection Status:	Local Government
Habitat: Forest Remnant	Catchment:	Waitara (395)
Ecosystem Type: MF7: Tawa, kamahi, podocarp forest		

### General Description

The P.G Nops Reserve is a New Plymouth District Council reserve located on the southern boundary of Inglewood township on the west side of State Highway 3. The reserve is a 1.2hectare cutover lowland forest remnant with a dominant canopy of tawa. A short loop walkway is present in the reserve.

### Ecological Features

#### Flora

The small forest remnant canopy is dominated by large tawa with occasional pukatea and kamahi present. The sub canopy is a mix of kanono, mahoe, pate and tree ferns and is reasonably intact. Native vegetation is present as groundcover although weeds such as wandering willy dominate in some areas.

#### Fauna

The reserve provides a small amount of forest habitat for native birds such as the New Zealand pigeon, tui, fantail, grey warbler and silvereye. There is also good habitat for native fish in the Kurapete stream and Kurapete stream tributary in the reserve which may include notable species. Good habitat for native reptiles is also present.

### Ecological Values

Ecological Context - Medium	Enhances connectivity between fragmented indigenous habitats and other KNE's in the area including Redpath Bush and Maketawa Stream Forests.
Rarity and Distinctiveness - Medium	Contains the 'At Risk' kingfern.
Representativeness - High	Contains indigenous vegetation on 'Acutely Threatened' LENZ environment (F5.2a) and is a remnant of an At Risk ecosystem type (MF7-3 Tawa, pukatea, podocarp forest)
Sustainability - Positive	Still in reasonable condition and under appropriate management will remain resilient to existing potential threats.

### Other Management Issues

Habitat Modification - Medium	Edge effects and human activity such as tracks, rubbish and vegetation cutting.
Weeds - High	Extensive weed issues especially ground cover weeds such as wandering willy although shrub weeds and vine weeds are also present.
Herbivores - Medium	Currently stock proof and possum numbers appear low. Browsers could have a significant impact if fencing wasn't secure or possum numbers

Predators - Medium

increased.

Rodents, mustelids, possums, cats and hedgehogs will be impacting on fauna and flora values at the site.



## Penwarden

### At a glance

<b>TRC Reference:</b> BD/9579	<b>LENZ:</b>	C1.3a Acutely threatened
<b>Ecological District:</b> Egmont		F5.2b Acutely threatened
<b>Land Tenure:</b> Private	<b>National:</b>	Priority 1 – Threatened Land Environment
<b>Area(ha):</b> 4.4		Priority 2 – Sand Dunes and Wetlands
<b>GPS:</b> X1670393 Y 5648379		Priority 4 – Threatened Species
<b>Bioclimatic Zone:</b> Semi-Coastal	<b>Regional:</b>	Potential KNE
<b>Habitat:</b> Coastal/Forest Remnant	<b>Regional Ecosystem Loss:</b>	Chronically threatened 10-20% left Acutely Threatened <10% left
<b>Ecosystem Type</b>	WF13: Tawa, kohekohe, rewarewa, hinau, podocarp forest WF8: Kahikatea, pukatea forest	

### General Description

The Penwarden KNE area is located approximately 2kms north east of Rahotu on the western Mount Taranaki ring plain. The KNE area consists of two QEII covenanted semi coastal forest remnants totaling 4.4 hectares on mainly flat ground amongst lower lahar mounds common in this area. The covenants lie in the Egmont Ecological District and are within the Waitaha and Pungaereere Stream catchments.

### Ecological Features

#### Flora

The covenants are mainly on flat contour although small lahar mounds give some elevation on the western edge of the larger block. This small and varied range in elevation provides a variety of habitats for native flora and a mix of traditionally wetland and dryland forest canopy species are present. The main canopy includes pukatea, kahikatea, lowland cabbage tree, hinau, tawa, rewarewa, titoki, kohekohe and karaka. A lush sub canopy is present which includes kawakawa, mapou, kohekohe, kanono, karaka and tree ferns. The native groundcover in the forest is a good mix of seedlings and ferns.

#### Fauna

The forest remnants provide an important habitat for a range of native and exotic bird species in an area mainly dominated by developed farmland. Kereru, grey warbler, fantail and silvereye were observed feeding within the forest and several morepork were heard calling at night. Welcome swallow and kingfisher were also observed on the forest margins and other native birds will also be present or use this area as part of their wider feeding territories. There is adequate habitat for terrestrial and arboreal reptile species which may include threatened or regionally distinctive species. Shortfin eels, freshwater crayfish and the 'Regionally Distinctive' banded kokopu are present and good habitat exists for the 'At Risk' brown mudfish.

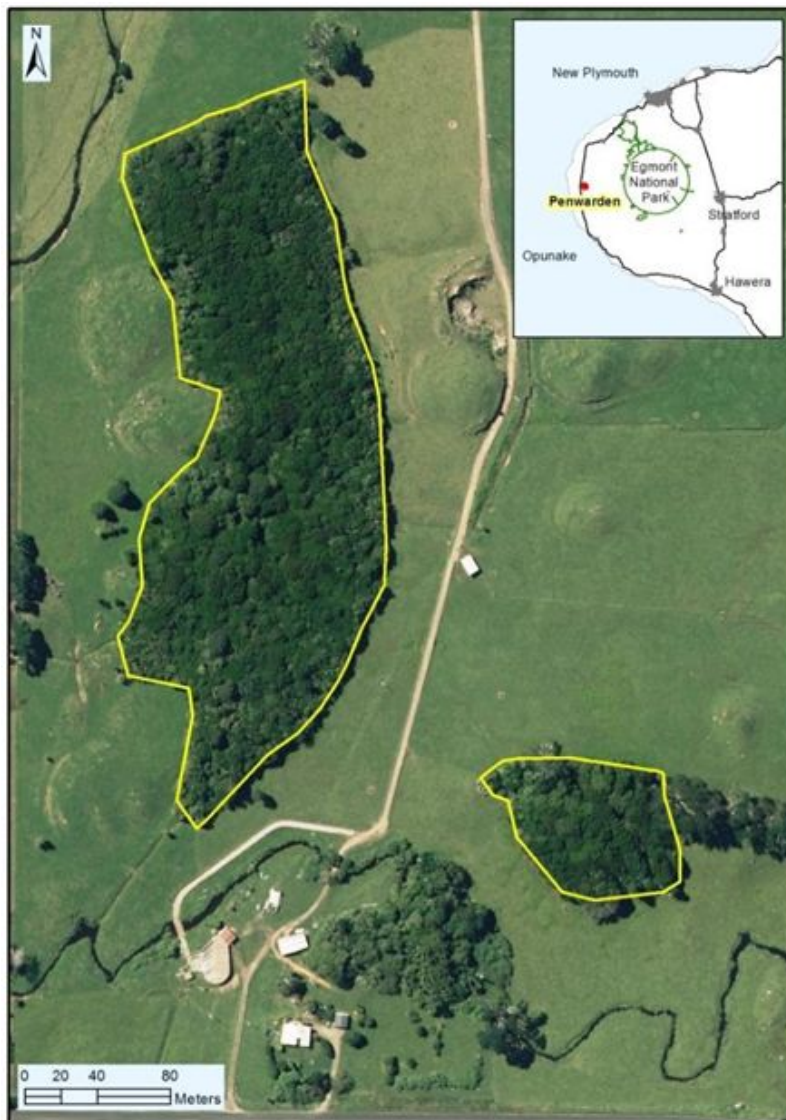
### Ecological Values

Ecological context - High	Provides medium connectivity to other KNE, priority ecosystems and natural habitats in the area including Pipiriki (Swampy Bush) and Pentelow QEII covenants.
Rarity and Distinctiveness - Medium	Contains the 'Regionally Distinctive' banded kokopu. Likely to contain other notable native fauna including priority native fish and reptiles.
Representativeness - High	Contains vegetation on 'Acutely Threatened' land environments (C1.3a &

Sustainability - Positive F5.2b) and is a remnant of two regionally threatened ecosystems (WF13: Tawa, kohekohe, rewarewa, hinau, podocarp forest and WF8: Kahikatea, pukatea forest)  
 In very good vegetative condition and likely to remain resilient to existing or potential threats.

**Other Management Issues**

Habitat Modification - Low Protected by QEII covenant conditions.  
 Herbivores - High Currently fenced and stock proof although vulnerable to stock browsing if fences were breached. The forest canopy would be vulnerable to possum browse if possum numbers were high.  
 Possum Self-help The site is within the possum self help area.  
 Predators - Medium Predators including rodents, mustelids, possums, feral cats and hedgehogs will be having an impact on native species at the site.  
 Weed Control Weeds have very good potential to impact on the site and species present include Japanese honeysuckle, wandering willy, ginger, woolly nightshade, ivy etc.



## McQuoid QEII 5/06/309

### At a glance

<b>TRC Reference:</b> BD/7139	<b>LENZ:</b>	F5.2b Acutely threatened
<b>Ecological District:</b> Egmont	<b>National:</b>	Priority 1 – Threatened Land Environment
<b>Land Tenure:</b> Private		Priority 4 – Threatened Species
<b>Area(ha):</b> 1.4	<b>Regional:</b>	Potential KNE
<b>GPS:</b> 1692645X & 5671056Y	<b>Regional Ecosystem Loss:</b>	Chronically threatened 10-20% left
<b>Bioclimate Zone:</b> Semi-Coastal		
<b>Habitat:</b> Coastal/Forest Remnant		
<b>Ecosystem Type</b>	WF13: Tawa, kohekohe, rewarewa, hinau, podocarp forest	

### General Description

The McQuoid QII is located on the south west fringe of New Plymouth in the Egmont Ecological District and Huatoki Stream catchment. The QEII covers 1.4ha and is made up of a small gully and forested west facing gully slope. The upper and lower gullies are regenerating native forest and tree ferns with additional fenced and native planted buffer margins. The main slope is mainly a remnant of cutover old forest with a good canopy cover and undergrowth. The site provides good connectivity to other Key Native Ecosystems in the area including the Huatoki Scenic Reserve, Omata Bush, McGlashan Bush and the Ratapihipihi Scenic Reserve.

### Ecological Features

#### Flora

The main canopy of the old forest area is dominated by pukatea, tawa, rimu and rewarewa. The lower canopy is dominated by mahoe, pigeonwood and tree ferns. A good mix of seedlings and sapling are present including kawakawa, mapou, pigeonwood and coprosmas. A variety of native ferns dominate the groundcover including the notable *Deparia petersenii* subsp. *congrua* which is listed as 'Regionally Distinctive'. Other notable plants have been included in the new planting such as akeake and corokia although these species are likely outside their natural range. The area is classified as and 'Acutely Threatened' land environment (F5.2b). Native vegetation in these areas is rare and important for species threatened by habitat loss.

#### Fauna

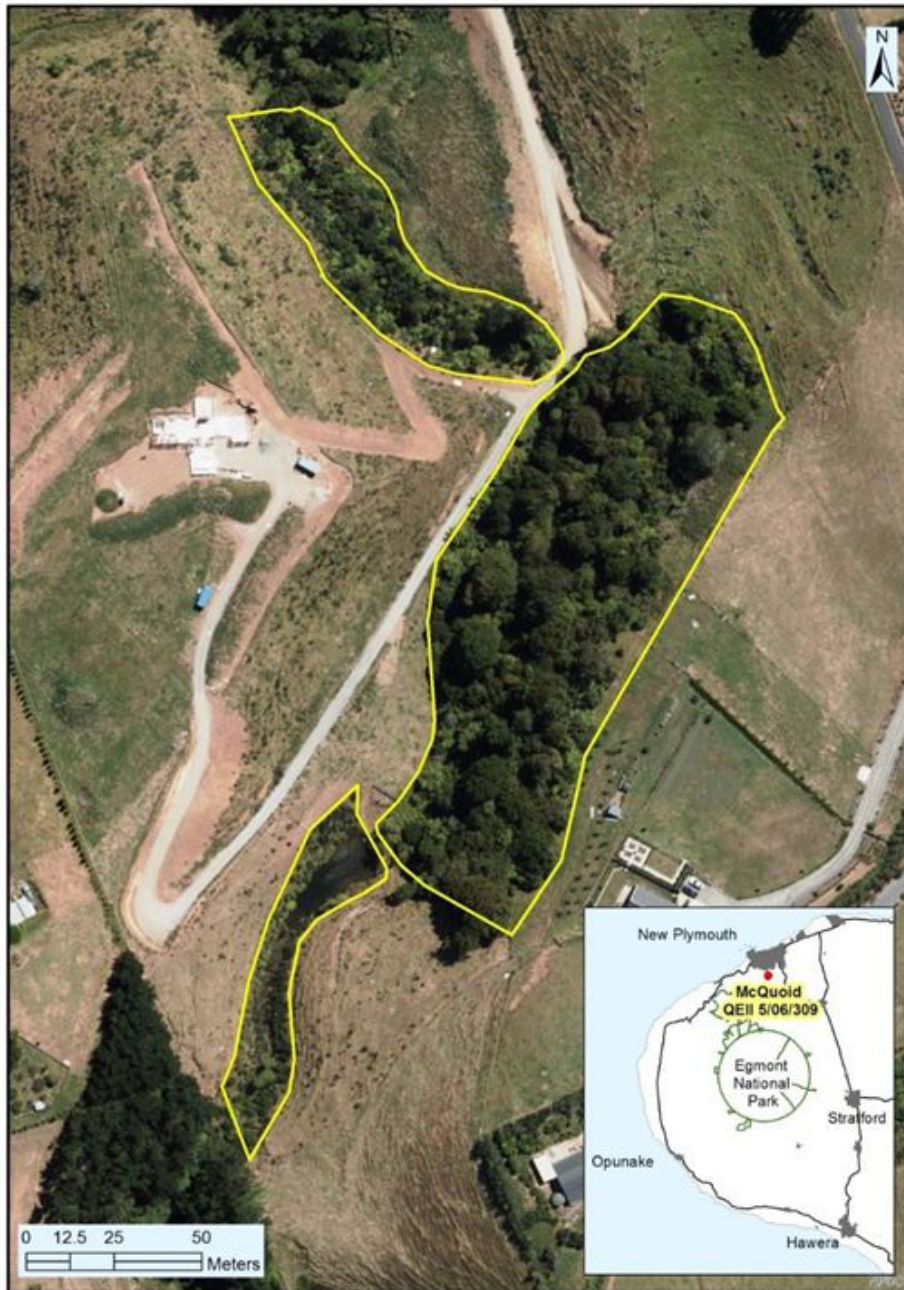
The covenant provides a small forest habitat for native birds such as tui, kereru, fantail, shining cuckoo and bellbird. Good habitat exists for native reptiles and invertebrates which will include notable species. A small manmade pond and stream is also present which contains the notable banded kokopu.

### Ecological Values

Rarity and Distinctiveness - Medium	Contains the 'Regionally Distinctive' fern <i>Deparia petersenii</i> subsp. <i>congrua</i> and banded kokopu.
Representativeness - High	Contains indigenous vegetation on 'Acutely Threatened' (F5.2a) LENZ land environment and is a remnant of a regionally Chronically Threatened ecosystem type (WF13: Tawa, kohekohe, rewarewa, hinau, podocarp forest).
Ecological context - High	The site provides good connectivity to other Key Native Ecosystems in the area including the Huatoki Scenic Reserve, Omata Bush, McGlashan Bush and the Ratapihipihi Scenic Reserve.
Sustainability - Positive	In good vegetative condition. Key ecological processes still influence the site. Under appropriate management, it can remain resilient to existing or potential threats.

### Other Management Issues

Habitat Modification - Low	Formally protected and fenced.
Weeds - Medium	Occasional patches and individual weeds such as woolly nightshade, inkweed, gorse, cherry etc.
Herbivores - Medium	Currently stock proof and possum sign was low although browsing is a potential threat.
Predators - Medium	Rodents, mustelids, possums, cats and hedgehogs will be impacting on fauna values at the site.



## Paul Dodge - Mataro Road

### At a glance

TRC Reference: BD/9570	LENZ:	F5.2a Acutely threatened
Ecological District: North Taranaki		F1.1b Not threatened
Land Tenure: Private	National:	Priority 1 - Threatened Land Environment
Area(ha): 1.1	Regional:	Potential KNE
GPS: 1718619X & 5677424Y	Regional Ecosystem Loss:	Chronically threatened 10-20% left
Bioclimate Zone: Semi-Coastal	Catchment:	Onaero (398)
Habitat: Forest Remnant		

Ecosystem Type    WF13: Tawa, kohekohe, rewarewa, hinau, podocarp forest

### General Description

The site is located on privately owned land on Mataro Road approximately 6 km South of Onaero in the North Taranaki ecological district. The site is comprised of the head of a forested gully in the Onaero catchment and is connected to approx. 50ha of native forest including the Ingrams QEII site. The site also provides additional habitat and greater connectivity with other Key Native Ecosystems in this area such as Kotare bush, Hickman road (Luxton), Tikorangi Whitehead, and Mangahewa.

### Ecological Features

#### Flora

The site is a remnant of an ecosystem type that is chronically threatened in Taranaki. Less than 16% of this type of forest remains in the region. The forest canopy is dominated by tawa and rewarewa close to the ridges with occasional large pukatea, puriri, rimu and miro present.

#### Fauna

Native birdlife recorded in and around the site includes the New Zealand pigeon, grey warbler, fantail, tui, bellbird, kingfisher, western North Island brown kiwi and the 'Regionally Distinctive' New Zealand falcon.

### Ecological Values

Ecological Context - Medium	Is connected to an additional 50ha (approx.) of native forest including the Ingrams QEII site. The site also provides additional habitat and greater connectivity with other Key Native Ecosystems in this area such as Kotare bush, Hickman road (Luxton), Tikorangi Whitehead, and Mangahewa.
Rarity and Distinctiveness - Medium	No threatened or at risk species were recorded during the initial condition assessment. The site is connected to a larger patch of native forest that provides habitat for the western North Island brown kiwi ( <i>Apteryx mantelli</i> ) (threatened, nationally vulnerable) and also for the 'Regionally Distinctive' New Zealand falcon ( <i>Falco novaeseelandiae</i> ).
Representativeness - High	Contains vegetation on a land environment classified as 'Acutely Threatened' (F5.2a) and is a remnant of a chronically threatened ecosystem type in Taranaki (WF13 Tawa, kohekohe, rewarewa, hinau, podocarp forest)

Sustainability - Positive

Key ecological processes still influence the site and with appropriate management, it can remain resilient to existing or potential threats.

### **Other Management Issues**

Habitat Modification - Medium

Landowner is keeping stock out of the bush with temporary fencing. The site would benefit greatly from permanent fencing.

Herbivores - Medium

Goats and possums are common at the site.

Predators - High

Predators that threaten the site include Mustelids, rats, and feral cats.

Weeds - Low

Few weeds are present.





## Rewarewa Bush

### At a glance

TRC Reference: BD/9566	LENZ:	F5.2b Acutely threatened
Ecological District: Egmont	National:	Priority 1 - Threatened Land Environment
Land Tenure: Private	Regional:	Potential KNE
Area(ha): 3.1	Regional Ecosystem Loss:	Chronically threatened 10-20% left
GPS: 1685155X & 5668455Y	Protection Status:	QEII Covenant
Bioclimate Zone: Semi-Coastal	Catchment:	Oakura (385)
Habitat: Forest Remnant		

Ecosystem Type    WF13: Tawa, kohekohe, rewarewa, hinau, podocarp forest

### General Description

Rewarewa Bush KNE is made up of two small remnants of semi coastal forest totalling 3.1 ha adjacent to the Oakura river near Oakura. The site is located on the banks of the Oakura river and surrounding a small tributary stream that feeds into the Oakura river within the Egmont Ecological District. The remnant is protected with a QEII covenant and is securely fenced. The site lies in close proximity to other Key Native Ecosystems in the area, including McKie QEII Covenant and Egmont National Park.

### Ecological Features

#### Flora

The forest type is semi-coastal tawa/kohekohe/rewarewa forest. Other canopy trees include titoki, pukatea and puriri. A number of other plant species are also present in the sub canopy including karaka, mamaku, kawakawa, pigeonwood, various coprosmas, silver fern/ponga and mahoe.

#### Fauna

Native birdlife recorded in and around the site include the New Zealand pigeon, tui, grey warbler, fantail, silvereye and sacred kingfisher. Long-tailed bats have been recorded in the nearby Kaitake range and it is possible that they use this area for foraging. Good habitat exists for reptiles which may include notable species. Fish life in the Oakura river includes giant kokopu, koaro, longfin eels and short jawed kokopu. Other aquatic life includes the shortfin eel, freshwater crayfish and the introduced brown trout. A survey was undertaken on a small tributary of the Oakura river that runs through the site and good numbers of banded kokopu were observed.

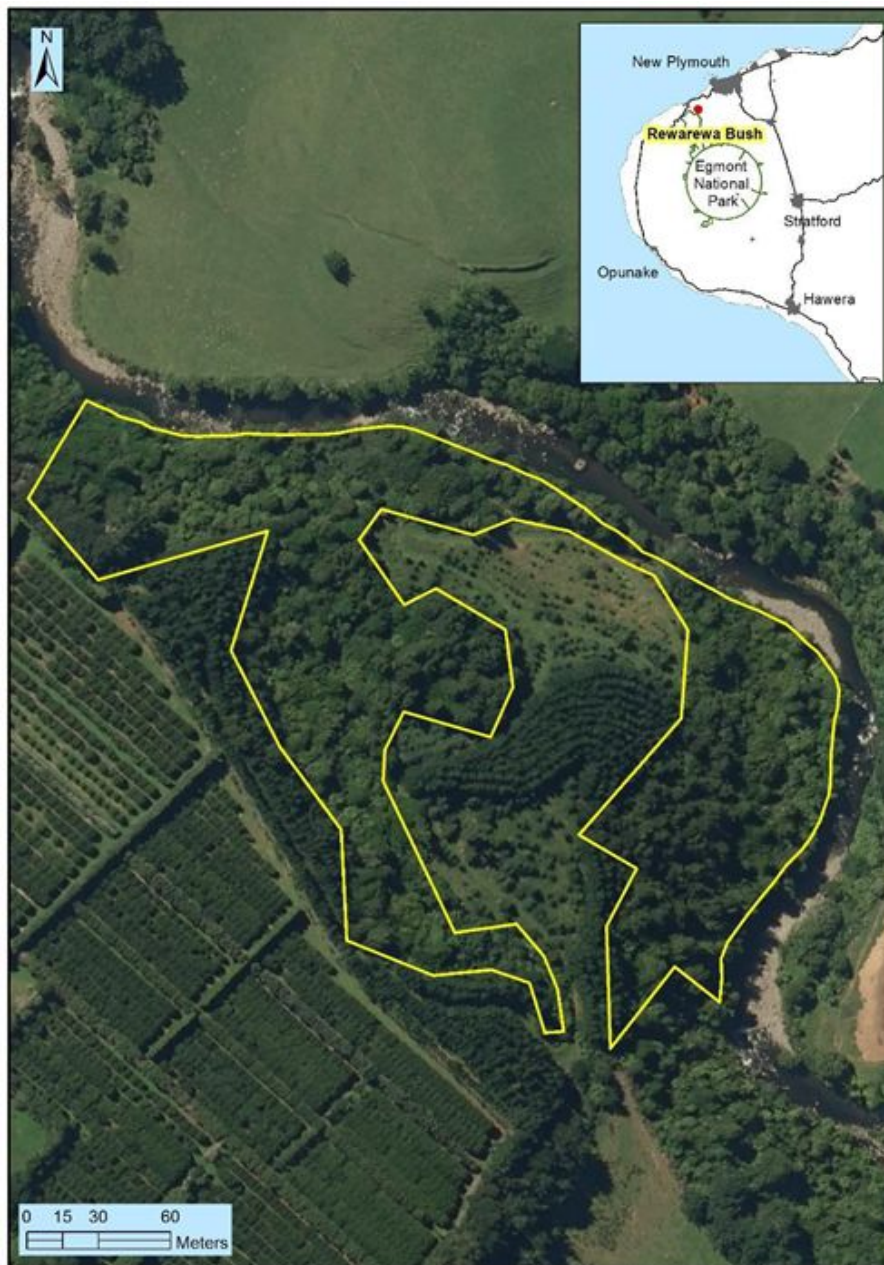
### Ecological Values

Ecological Context - Medium	Provides habitat and important linkages along the Oakura river and is in close proximity to other Key Native Ecosystems in the area, including McKie QEII Covenant and Egmont National Park.
Rarity and Distinctiveness - Medium	Provides habitat for the regionally distinctive banded kokopu.
Representativeness - High	Contains vegetation on a land environment classified as 'Acutely Threatened' (F5.2b) and is a remnant of a forest type that is chronically threatened in Taranaki.
Sustainability - Positive	Key ecological processes still influence the site and with appropriate management, it can remain resilient to existing or

potential threats. The site is protected with a QEII covenant.

### Other Management Issues

Habitat Modification - Low	The site is protected by a QEII covenant.
Herbivores - Low	Possums are controlled in conjunction with the possum self help program. No other exotic browsing animals are present.
Predators - Medium	Predators that threaten the site include Mustelids, rats, and feral cats. The landowner does carry out some rat control.
Weeds - Low	Banana passionfruit and Japanese hill cherry are the main pest plant threats to the site.



## John Whittington, Stanley Road

### At a glance

TRC Reference: BD/9571	LENZ:	F5.2a Acutely threatened
Ecological District: North Taranaki		F7.2a At risk
Land Tenure: Private	National:	Priority 1 - Threatened Land Environment
Area(ha): 7.5	Regional:	Potential KNE
GPS: 1716393X & 5650189Y	Catchment:	Waitara (395)
Bioclimate Zone: Lowland		
Habitat: Forest Remnant		

Ecosystem Type MF7.3: Tawa, pukatea, podocarp forest

### General Description

The site is located on privately owned land on Stanley Road approximately 8 km north east of Stratford on the boarder of the North Taranaki and Egmont Ecological Districts. The site is comprised of a steep sided forested basin which feeds into the Ahuroa stream in the Waitara catchment. The site also provides connectivity with other Key Native Ecosystems in this area such as Ancell Farms KNE and the Jackson QEII KNE.

### Ecological Features

#### Flora

The canopy is dominated by tawa and rewarewa with pukatea in the wetter areas, and also contains emergent rimu. Regenerating areas are dominated by tree ferns, mahoe, pidgeonwood and wineberry.

#### Fauna

Native birdlife recorded in and around the site includes the New Zealand pigeon, grey warbler, fantail, and tui.

### Ecological Values

Ecological Context - Medium	Provides additional habitat and connectivity with other Key Native Ecosystems in this area such as Ancell farms and Jackson QEII Block.
Rarity and Distinctiveness - Low	No threatened or regionally distinctive species were found on the initial condition assessment.
Representativeness - Medium	Contains vegetation on a land environment classified as 'Acutely Threatened' (F5.2a).
Sustainability - Positive	Key ecological processes still influence the site and with appropriate management, it can remain resilient to existing or potential threats.

### Other Management Issues

Habitat Modification - Medium	The site has been fenced for some time and the landowner is in the process of establishing a QEII covenant to protect the site. A portion of the bush area is on the neighbouring property and some of the fencing on this property is not completely stock proof.
Herbivores - Medium	Possoms are controlled in conjunction with the possum self help

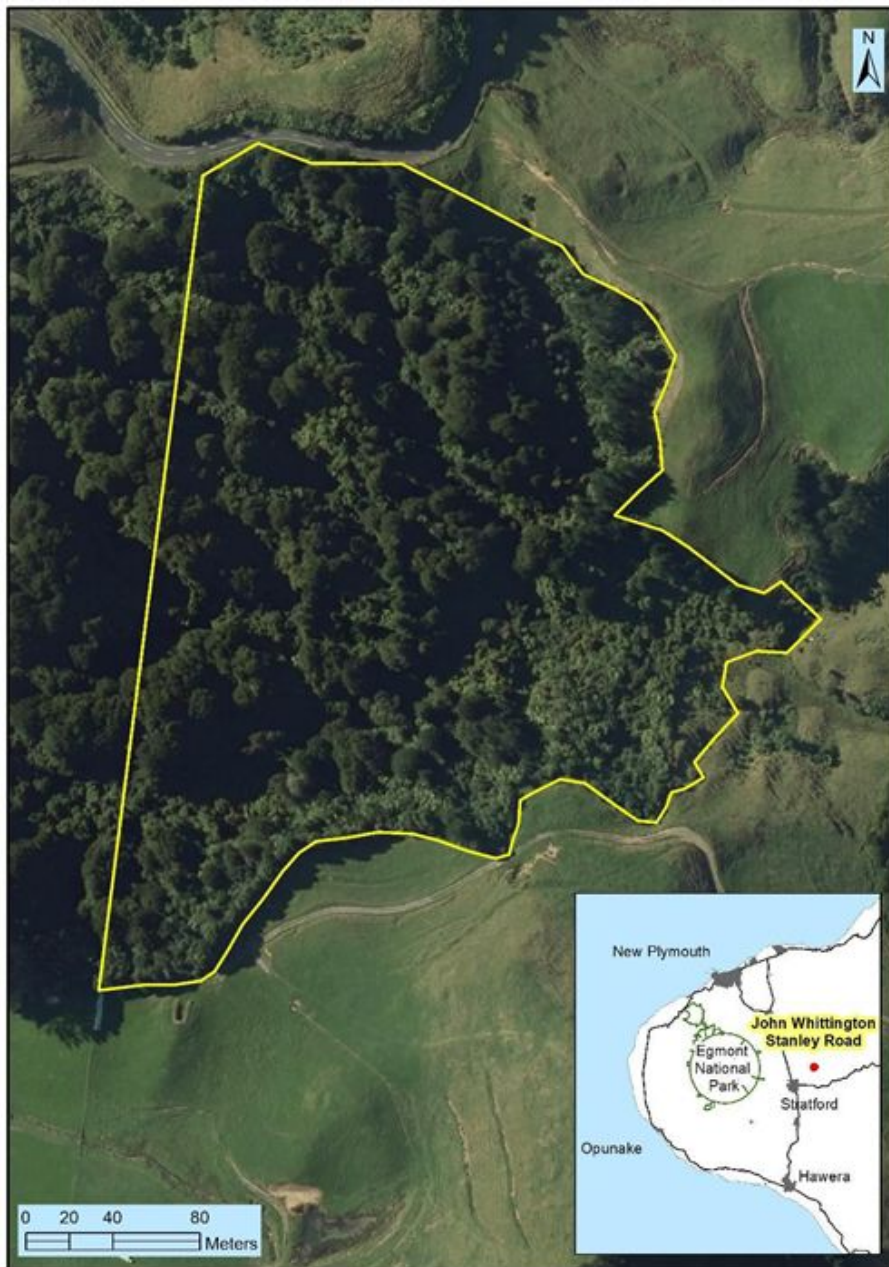
program. There is sign of stock entering the bush on the neighbours property, and the majority of the fences will need upgrading for a QEII covenant to be established.

Predators - High

Predators that threaten the site include Mustelids, rats, and feral cats.

Weeds - High

The majority of the site has few weed issues but an area that borders Stanley road contains a large infestation of jasmine (*Jasminum polyanthum*) and wandering willie (*Tradescantia fluminensis*), most probably due to garden waste dumping.



## **Agenda reports**

### **Policy and Planning Committee, March 2017**

#### **Item 3**

[Requirements for good farm management](#) (2 MB)