



# Exploring Opportunities: A Management Plan for Whakaipō Bay Recreation Reserve



# Table of Contents

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Table of Contents .....	2
1. Executive Summary .....	3
2. Background.....	4
3. Management Plan Objectives .....	5
4. Consultation Process.....	8
5. Statutory Context for the Management Plan.....	10
6. Current Recreational Use.....	11
7. Concessions.....	13
8. Values .....	15
9. Historical Context.....	19
10. Cultural Recognition.....	24
11. Recreation .....	25
12. Camping .....	33
13. Behaviour and Safety Issues .....	43
14. Enhancing Biodiversity .....	48
15. Infrastructure Works .....	53
16. Priority Tasks.....	59

# 1. Executive Summary

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Whakaipō Bay Recreation Reserve is located on the northern shores of Lake Taupō and is highly valued by the community for its feeling of remoteness and unspoilt beauty. The reserve is administered by the Department of Conservation (DOC) on behalf of all New Zealanders. There is now a variety of recreation uses located at the reserve, including one end of the popular W2K Track which is part of the 'Great Lake Trail' on the western shores of Lake Taupō, which is also part of Nga Haerenga, the New Zealand Cycle Trail project. The rapidly increasing popularity of Whakaipō Bay as a recreational destination is also placing pressure on the very values that visitors to the reserve come to experience. Whakaipō Bay has a rich history of occupation and use by Māori for hundreds of years, and forms part of an important cultural landscape for mana whenua.

The Tongariro Taupō Conservation Board and the community generally have urged DOC to initiate a project to explore opportunities to develop a management plan for Whakaipō Bay. This non-statutory management plan is the outcome of that project which commenced in August 2015.

Whilst this has been a project lead by DOC, the philosophy of the project has been 'He waka eke noa', meaning 'a canoe which we are all in with no exception'. A project steering group was formed with representatives from the Department of Conservation, the Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board, Taupō District Council and the community. A working group was also formed including a community representative, and a substantial community consultation process was launched.

DOC would like to acknowledge and thank all of the members of the project steering group for their time and expertise, and also all of the organisations and individuals that have contributed to this process, and to the development of the management plan. The Department looks forward to working alongside the organisations that have contributed to this management plan and the community, during the implementation of this management plan over the next ten years.



## 2. Background

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Whakaipō Bay Recreation Reserve is located on the northern shores of Lake Taupō, approximately 11 kilometres from the Taupō town centre and accessed via Māpara Road. The Whakaipō Bay Recreation Reserve is 45.4 hectares in land area, and is highly valued by the community as a unique and beautiful place that is treasured for its serenity and unspoilt feel. Despite only being a fifteen minute drive from Taupō township, Whakaipō Bay has a remoteness and 'out of this world' quality that attracts thousands of visitors each year. Whakaipō Bay and the land within the reserve has significant historical and cultural value to Māori.

Historically the community values of Whakaipō Bay have been identified as the desire to retain the 'quiet, rustic and natural setting free from commercial development and residential subdivision', as this experience has become more difficult to obtain in recent decades given population growth within the Taupō district, and changing recreation patterns with increased car use and accessibility of more remote locations such as Whakaipō Bay.

DOC is aware that increasing recreational use of the reserve, and the growth of freedom camping following the enactment of the Freedom Camping Act 2011, was placing increasing pressure on Whakaipō Bay Recreation Reserve. There was also community concern emerging regarding the management of the reserve.

In response to the growing use and pressure on the reserve, in 2004 the Tongariro Taupō Conservation Board issued a directive that DOC should prepare and implement a management plan for Whakaipō Bay and also for Five Mile Bay Reserves. For various reasons the management plan process did not commence immediately, but in 2008 DOC did commence a public consultation process and prepared the Whakaipō Bay Recreation Reserve Concept Plan 2008. This was partly in response to the Māpara Valley Structure Plan which was being consulted on at the time and proposed some urban development within the Māpara Valley. Whilst a draft, several implementation actions occurred, although the plan itself was not finalised, nor were the concepts shown on it fully implemented.

In March 2014 the Tongariro Taupō Conservation Board expressed concern with DOC's slow progress to deal with issues at Whakaipō Bay such as signage and camping. DOC's response was to initiate a project plan to undertake public consultation and formulation of a management plan. The process described in this document and the management plan itself is the outcome of this project plan.

### 3. Management Plan Objectives

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The objective of this plan is to ensure effective management of the Whakaipō Bay area for the next ten years.

The overall management goal is to maintain and protect Whakaipō Bay as a beautiful area valued by locals, while maximising its recreational use. There are four focus areas for the management plan aligned with DOC's intermediate outcomes:

**Recreational use:** Whakaipō Bay continues to be valued as a recreation destination for local users and for those from further afield.

**Cultural:** The cultural values associated with Whakaipō Bay are understood and respected. The cultural values are communicated to the community and recreational users of Whakaipō Bay.

**Biodiversity enhancement:** Investigate, restore and enhance the biodiversity in Whakaipō Bay. Communicate the biodiversity values and works done to restore this, to all stakeholders and the community.

**Community:** The community use of Whakaipō Bay is valued, respected and encouraged. The community are actively involved in the ecological restoration of Whakaipō Bay. Safety and security are important to encourage active community use.

The Whakaipō Bay area consists of several land parcels administered and managed by DOC. This management plan is a non-statutory document designed to assist DOC and the wider community to manage the significant values that exist on the reserve. In particular the management plan will assist with identifying values and setting priorities for physical works and projects on the reserve, and as a means of building stronger relationships with community groups, local hapū and other organisations in the delivery of those works and projects.

The project goals are to:

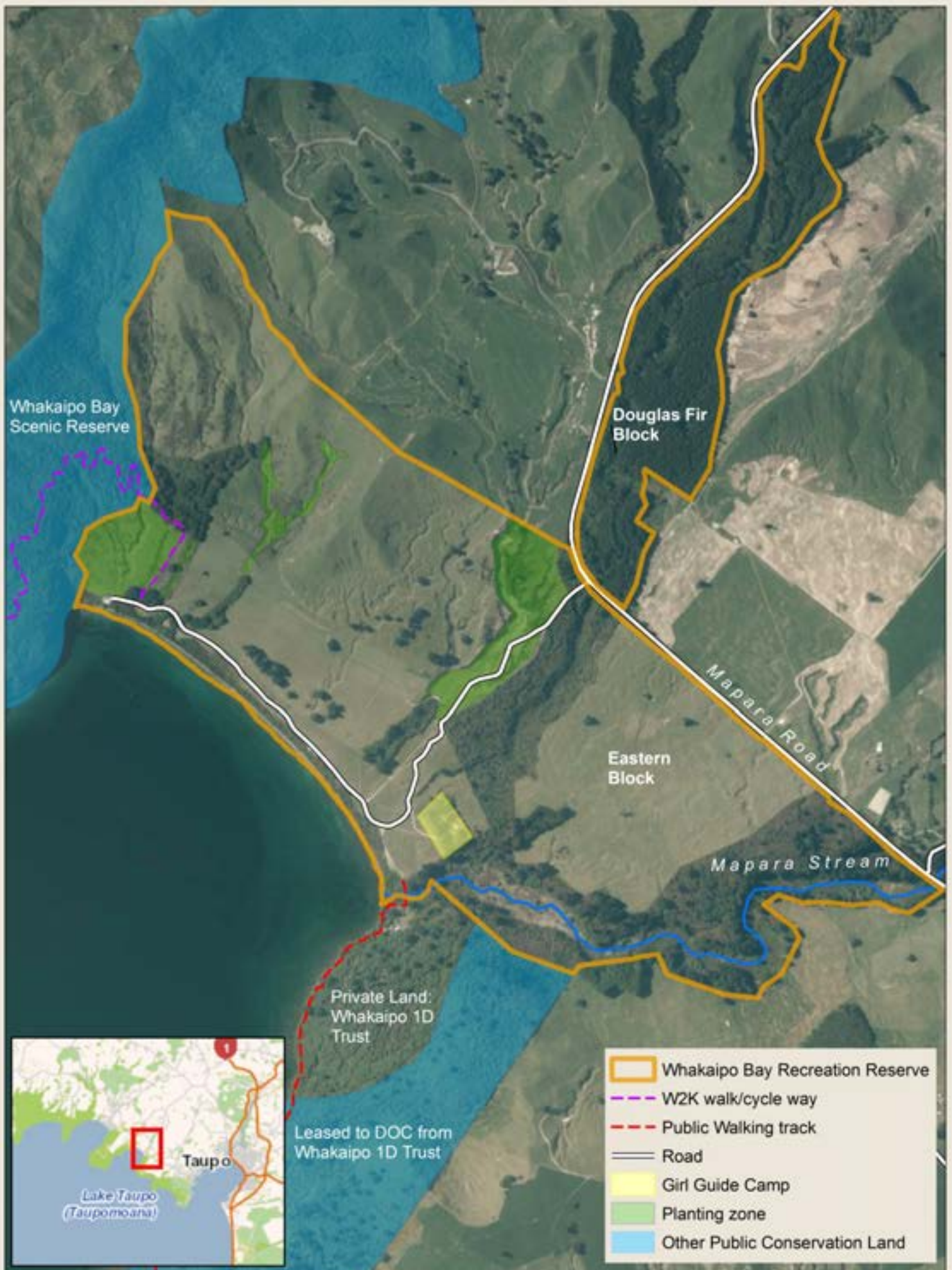
- Review the current recreational uses of Whakaipō Bay;
- Identify the key recreational, cultural, amenity and other intrinsic values of Whakaipō Bay;
- Identify the biodiversity values at Whakaipō Bay, how to preserve and enhance them and creation of a biodiversity enhancement strategy;
- Determine how these values can be best preserved and how Whakaipō Bay can best be managed;
- Provide a robust description and management framework for Statutory Land Management (SLM) issues at Whakaipō Bay. This will include the organisation of land uses and facilities, and gazetting of appropriate areas for camping, day use etc);
- Consider how surrounding public conservation land integrates with the values of Whakaipō Bay, and how synergies could be achieved between the management of Whakaipō Bay and the uses of the surrounding public conservation land;
- Develop a stakeholder engagement and communication plan for Whakaipō Bay;
- Develop a 10-year action plan for works by DOC at Whakaipō Bay, and work plans from key stakeholders in Whakaipō Bay.

The outcomes of the project are the development of a Whakaipō Bay Management Plan reflecting both the four focus areas for DOC, and the values held by the community and key stakeholders. The management plan includes a prioritised list of actions to be implemented by DOC and stakeholders to enhance Whakaipō Bay. The management plan focuses on identifying and maintaining the recreational, cultural and biodiversity values at Whakaipō Bay.

The project excluded consideration of other public conservation land in the locality beyond the Whakaipō Bay Recreation Reserve (see the project boundaries in Figure 1, overleaf), and excluded consideration of existing operational matters and maintenance programmes.

A steering group was formed which included DOC senior managers, a representative from the Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board, a representative of community and local environmental groups, and a representative from Taupō District Council. A working group was then established involving DOC staff, a project manager, and a community representative. The aim of the composition of both the steering group and the working group was to include some key stakeholders within the project team itself, rather than being treated as external stakeholders.

**Figure 1 (overleaf) – Whakaipō Bay Management Plan - Overview Map**



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 DOC, Geospatial Services



## Whakaipo Bay Management Plan - Overview

500 Meters



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 Te Papa Atarauhi

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## 4. Consultation Process

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A Communications Plan was formulated to set out the intended consultation and community engagement aspect of the project. The engagement objectives were to ensure that the project team reaches relevant stakeholders with an engagement approach suitable to each group, and receives honest, useful and timely feedback to feed into the management plan.

Consultation goals included:

- Identify who the key stakeholders are;
- Engage all stakeholders in a suitable manner;
- Identify current recreational use and stakeholder's future aspirations;
- Scope and prioritise stakeholder's work / projects;
- Seek a range of views on freedom camping at Whakaipō Bay;
- Ensure our consultation is open, transparent and responsive to feedback.

Some key messages were also identified to be communicated by the working group to community groups and individuals as part of the consultation process. These key messages were:

- Whakaipō Bay is a valued local treasure, and DOC wants to work with others to develop a management plan that effectively manages the reserve.
- DOC wants to work with partners to grow conservation and empower others to get involved and make a difference.
- He waka eke noa. (Meaning 'a canoe which we are all in with no exception').
- Whakaipō Bay is an important part of what makes our area special – it is part of our local identity, attracts visitors and provides us with a place to relax, play and escape.
- We all have a part to play in protecting our nature.
- DOC needs to understand the current recreational, cultural, biodiversity uses and amenity and other intrinsic values of Whakaipō Bay.
- We will explore a range of views on freedom camping at Whakaipō Bay.
- DOC plays a key role in the local tourism industry – managing the natural places like Whakaipō Bay attracting visitors and providing a wide range of recreation experiences.

The Communications Plan formulated was then implemented with DOC establishing a page on the DOC website specifically about the project. Information sheets and feedback forms were produced and circulated to facilitate public comment. A database of likely interested parties was established based on previous communications DOC had in respect of the reserve and based on key contacts from local community, environmental and recreation groups. An information sheet was distributed via email to the database, and hardcopies placed in key locations (Acacia Bay businesses, Taupō Library, The Hub, Canoe and Kayak), and in print form at the Community Planting Day held at the reserve on Sunday 30 August. Feedback was received online and in the post.



A local businesses/concessionaires forum was held on 7 September to seek direct feedback from these stakeholders, and separately a recreation user group's forum was held on the same night to collect feedback. The aim of the two forums was to allow for stakeholder engagement in a highly focused format. A public open day was also held on 5 October at the Girl Guides camp at the reserve with displays to encourage general community feedback.

An information sheet outlined the objectives of the plan and encouraged people to provide feedback through the Whakaipō Bay page on the DOC website. There was also local media coverage of the management plan process and letters to the editor debating various matters.



Figure 2: Media coverage of the Whakaipō Bay Management Plan process

The public consultation process commenced in August 2015 and concluded on 16 October 2015. In summary, 379 feedback forms were received either through the online forum or at the public open day and by mail. Responses came equally from the immediate area (31% Acacia Bay, Māpara and Kinloch), the Taupō area (34%), and out of the district (35%). In terms of frequency of visits to the reserve, 30% of respondents visit the reserve

once a week or more, and 36% use the reserve frequently only during the summer. Verbal feedback was also gathered at the public open day with around 30-40 people visiting throughout the afternoon and evening to speak with members of the project team. There have been ongoing discussions between DOC and local hapū to include their values and aspirations for the reserve. There were also two petitions received and two submissions in the form of letters, all specifically in opposition to freedom camping.

The draft of this management plan was then formulated during November and December 2015, and sections of it circulated to key stakeholder groups who had contributed to the process for further comment. The draft was then available for public to view and comment on via the DOC website during April and May 2016. The final management plan was then released in June 2016.

The following sections detail feedback received and analysis of options and issues in respect of several key topics. A list of priority tasks is then provided at the conclusion of this management plan.

## 5. Statutory Context for the Management Plan

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The Whakaipō Bay Recreation Reserve is classified as a recreation reserve within the Reserves Act 1977. DOC is the administering body responsible for the reserve, being Conservation unit no. 60045. Under the Reserves Act the prescribed purpose of a recreation reserve ([Reserves Act 1977 section 17](#)) is to provide:

*“areas for the recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreational activities, including recreational tracks in the countryside.”*

The decisions that DOC makes in respect of the management of the reserve including concessions that might be granted pursuant to the Conservation Act 1987, and the outcomes of this management plan, must be in accordance with this over-riding purpose for the reserve. Whilst at present the majority of the reserve is grazed which is not a recreation use, DOC considers grazing to simply be a management tool to maintain the appearance of the reserve and to control weeds. The current grazing activity is subject to a concession, which is one of a number granted for grazing over the past decades.

The reserve is also managed under the auspices of the Tongariro/Taupō Conservation Management Strategy (2002). This document provides the over-arching framework for managing public conservation land within the conservancy. In particular it sets management priorities for the conservancy and provides an opportunity for the community to contribute to management of public conservation land.

## 6. Current Recreational Use

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Whilst DOC does not actively monitor the number of visitors to the reserve each year, it is apparent there is both a wide range of recreation users on the reserve, and large numbers of visitors, particularly during the summer months. Bike Taupō do monitor the numbers of walkers and mountain bikers using the W2K Track which commences at its southern end within the reserve, with numbers of approximately 20,000 per year. The recreational uses on the reserve include:

- **Short-day use:** include walkers and trail runners, dog walkers, swimmers, day beach users with small tents etc.
- **Boating:** There have been historical decisions to not have a boat ramp at Whakaipō Bay to discourage the use of motorised water vehicles, instead encouraging the use of dinghies and kayaks. Many boaties use the bay, as a sheltered spot to anchor up and also pulling their boat onto the beach for a day visit. The spot is popular with kayakers. There is a five knot rule within the 200 metre mark to keep jet skis from the swimmers.
- **Fishing:** popular with both recreational and commercial boat users in the bay as well as some fishing at the mouth of the Māpara Stream.
- **Mountain biking:** The Whakaipō Bay to Kinloch (W2K) track was opened by Bike Taupō in 2008 and now makes up a section of the Great Lake Trail part of the NZ Cycle Trail / Nga Haerenga. The track commences at the north-western end of the Bay and there is a bike shelter and information board on public conservation land. The track is managed through a management agreement between DOC and Bike Taupō.
- **Horse riding:** Locals use the bay for recreational horse riding.
- **Vehicles:** Vehicle users are discouraged, but Whakaipō Bay remains attractive to off road drivers (4WD, boy racers, quad/farm bikes). The rustic gravel road is aimed to slow traffic, and a security firm keeps dangerous vehicle behaviour to a minimum.
- **Orienteering:** Regular users of the recreation reserve for events, including national orienteering competitions.
- **Camping:** Currently an unrestricted camping area under the Freedom Camping Act 2011, Reserves Act 1977 and Conservation Act 1987. This includes short stay campers, e.g. a small tent or a caravan parked for a couple of nights, as well as longer term campers, e.g. campervan and tent set ups. They are well established and can be present for weeks to months over the summer period. It is important to note previous to the 2011 Freedom Camping Act, camping was banned at Whakaipō Bay.
- **Concessions:** There are several concessions on the Whakaipō Bay recreation reserve. These include a grazing lease, the Girl Guides Camp, and recreational and event concessions.
- **Girl Guides:** The Girl Guides have operated a camp in the eastern section of the bay for the last 50 years. The buildings are used as a base for camps.
- **Adjacent landowners:** The Whakaipō 1D Trust owns a private section of land at the eastern end with their own boat ramp and camp ground.

There are two toilets located within the reserve near the lakefront that have a contained waste disposal system to avoid any leaching of effluent into the ground. The signage within the reserve consists of a 'Whakaipō Bay Recreational Reserve' sign located at the entrance,

a 'Great Lake Trail' sign in reference to the W2K Track, a further DOC sign on a gate just inside the reserve stating activities disallowed, and information signage located at the W2K shelter at the commencement of the W2K Track.

DOC has a 25 year period Memorandum of Lease with the Whakaipō 1D Trust signed in July 1996 that expires in July 2021. This relates to the land on the southern side of Whakaipō Bay and that contains the Tāhunatara Point Track. The potential renewal of this lease will be considered in due course in conjunction with the Trust.

As can be seen from the reserve boundaries in Figure 1, as well as the highly used lakefront area, there are several other parts of the reserve that receive less use. For the purposes of this management plan, the areas are referred to as the Douglas Fir Block being the land on the northern side of Māpara Road containing the plantation of exotic species with native under storey (including but not limited to Douglas fir trees); and also the Eastern Block being the grazed land on the eastern portion of the reserve including the Māpara Stream gully.



## 7. Concessions

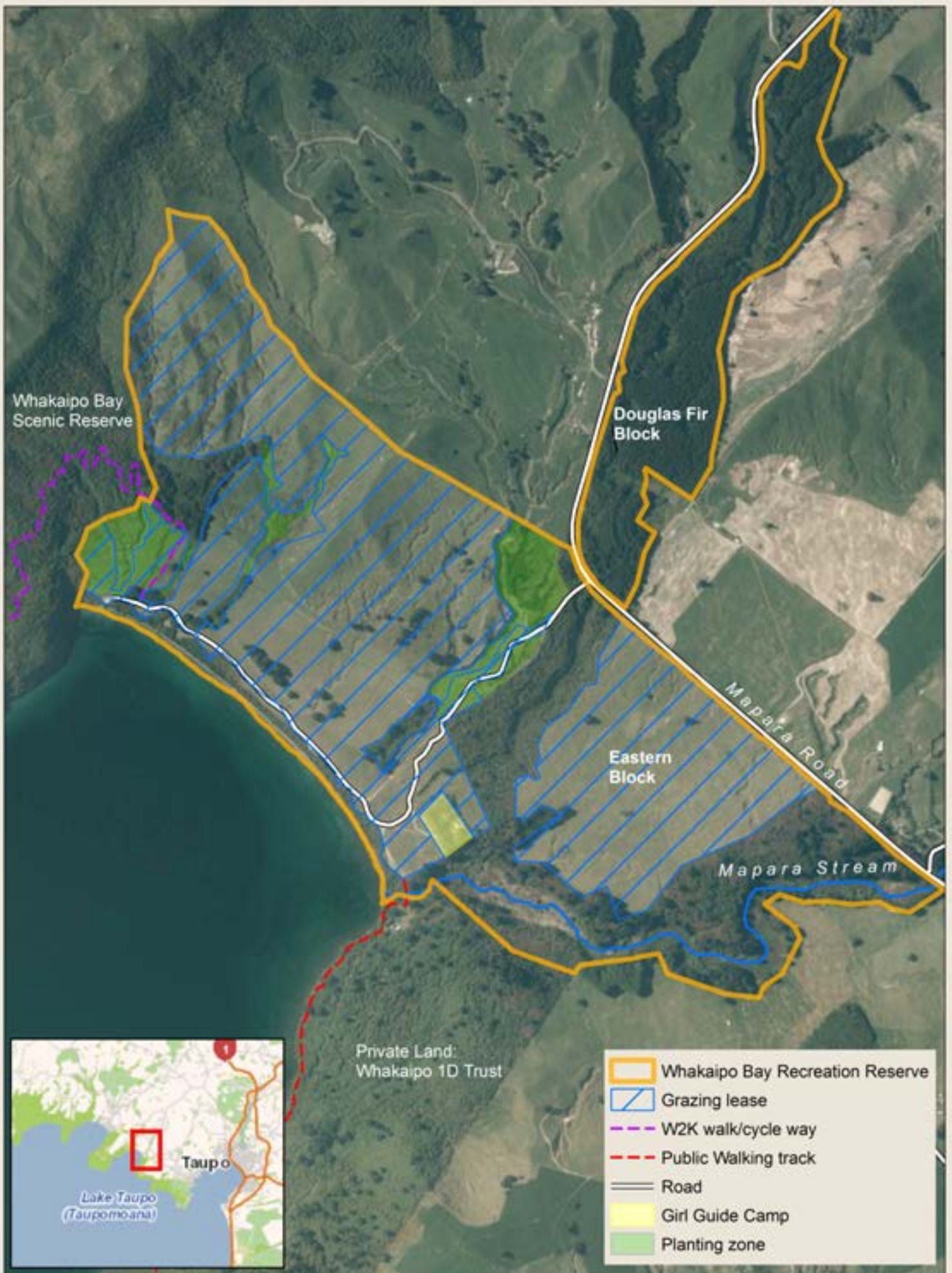
DOC administers applications for concessions pursuant to the Conservation Act 1987 to allow private individuals and organisations to undertake activities within DOC administered public conservation land. At present there are several concessions held for activities on the reserve, many of which are long-standing. The current concessions are as detailed in the table below:

Concessionaire	Activity permitted and detail	Period
Girl Guides Assoc. NZ Ltd	Adventure camp. Have held the current concession since 1999, and have rights of extension on the concession.	Expiry 2018
Naturally Adventurous Ltd trading as Walking Places	Guided walks and overnight camping	Expiry 2020
Olsen, John Sidney	Grazing	Expiry 2020
Oxfam NZ	Annual event – Oxfam Trail Walker (no longer held in Whakaipō)	Expiry 2023
Grubs and Company Ltd	Beehives	Expiry 2023
Bike Taupō Advocacy Group Incorporated	Guiding, filming, photography, sporting events and transportation services on the Great Lake Trail	Expiry 2023
Whakaipō Adventure Shuttles	Transport	Expiry 2023
Great Lake Shuttles	Transport	Expiry 2023
Tread Routes	Guiding and shuttles	Expiry 2023

Table 1: Current concessions

In the past, long-term concessions for activities on the reserve have also been held by the Māpara Pony Club for horse riding education and instruction (1998-2013), Laurieston Enterprises Ltd for grazing activities (2006-2011), and there have also been various one-off event related concessions for filming, orienteering and other sporting events, scientific investigations and for temporary water supply.

Figure 3 (overleaf) – Current Grazing Lease Areas at Whakaipō Bay



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500 Meters

## Whakaipo Bay Management Plan - Grazing



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## 8. Values

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Whakaipō Bay has been the subject of several previous plans, studies and community engagement exercises to identify values and management priorities for the reserve. This partly reflects the various bodies that have managed lakeside reserves on Lake Taupō in recent decades.

The earliest known formal management plan process is the 1977 Whakaipō Bay Nature Park Management Plan (1977) prepared by H.A. Turbott for the Lake Taupō Reserves Board, and included a description of the values attributed to the reserve at the time (these are discussed below). In 1989 the Whakaipō Bay Management Plan was prepared by P. Mathews, although the plan had a particular focus on the harvesting of douglas fir trees, presumably on the Douglas Fir Block. In 1993 a site survey was conducted and a concept plan for the reserve prepared by Titchener Monzingo Aitken, Landscape Architects Ltd. A geological assessment was conducted by Harry Keys in November 1994 as part of a wider 'Whakaipō Environmental Impact Assessment' being undertaken.

The most comprehensive evaluation of values was undertaken in the 1977 and 2008 studies, and the 2008 plan included substantial community engagement. These values are described below, as the current consultation exercised aimed to test the on-going validity of the values previously identified. This is relevant as the current consultation strongly indicated that the values previously identified remain strongly valid.

### 8.1. Whakaipō Bay Nature Park Management Plan 1977

H.A. Turbott wrote the Whakaipō Bay Nature Park Management Plan for the Lake Taupō Reserves Board in 1977. The following excerpts from the plan reflect the values of the time:

*“By far the greatest potential of Whakaipō Bay lies in the fact that it represents one of the last opportunities in the whole of the Taupō Basin to provide for outdoor activities of a passive nature in an unspoiled natural environment.....It is also apparent that urbanisation of the Taupō Basin will steadily increase to a level where the opportunity to experience peace and solitude in a natural setting will become a very precious regional and national asset. It is therefore of critical importance in the management of the reserve that this potential for unspoilt natural beauty is protected from incompatible development, and that duplication of activities that can already be found around the lake or developed elsewhere are not permitted to intrude into Whakaipō Bay”.*

*“...exclude the Bay any craft which by their activities, speed, noise pollution or other undesirable characteristics destroys the tranquillity and quality of the Bay and its surrounds...boat access should be limited to those which can be carried by hand and reinforced by location of car parks back from the water's edge...there should be no boat ramps of any kind...speed controls...”.*

## 8.2. Whakaipō Bay Recreation Reserve Concept Plan 2008

The 2008 process run by DOC consisted of a draft reserve concept plan being on show for three open days at the Acacia Bay Hall in January 2008, and a public meeting held at the Girl Guide camp in February 2008. This was in conjunction with a public consultation process being led by Taupō District Council, relating to the Māpara Valley Structure Plan at the time. DOC formulated a concept plan deliberately based on H.A. Turbott's values from 1977, and presented the plan for community consultation listing the following values:

- Promote recreation opportunities where the main experience depends directly on nature, its settings and moods;
- Retain the opportunity to find peace and relief in a quiet natural rural setting;
- Retain the open spacious character and feel of Whakaipō;
- Let the natural qualities of the shoreline, lake and land dominate;
- To understand and respect the vulnerability of the friable pumice soils to erosion;
- To exclude from Whakaipō and the bay any activities which distract from the natural quiet;
- To promote restrictions on motorised vessel use in the northern portion of the bay.

Some particular concepts were shown on the concept plan (see figure 3 below) relating to retiring gullies from grazing with a plan to restore with native tree plantings; three optional road ends; two suggested shared tracks; a look out; a walking track on the other side of Whakaipō Bay extending through the Douglas Fir Block, linked by a pedestrian underpass; provision for a possible campsite developed by private Māori land owners (Whakaipō 1D Trust at the eastern end of the lakefront); and providing easier launching access for small dinghies, kayaks and canoes.

The public feedback at the time was considered to confirm the values statement written by H.A. Turbott in 1977 about the 'natural, quiet, and rustic setting'; community acceptance of retiring grazing land and developing a planting plan; that no boat ramp for motorised boats should be built; some support for a regional park concept; feedback regarding avoidance of shared tracks (horse trails, bike trails and walking trails) and favouring loop tracks; proposal for a stage or amphitheatre for performances; mixed feedback regarding the road end proposals floated; and concern regarding security issues (alcohol parties, bonfires, dangerous driving on the reserve).

In response to the 2008 community consultation, security issues were largely resolved when DOC contracted security companies to patrol the Bay during peak periods; the pace of native re-planting increased, with the gullies being retired from grazing with funding provided by two Rotary Clubs and a Waikato Regional Council contract to subsidise fencing. No other projects were implemented.



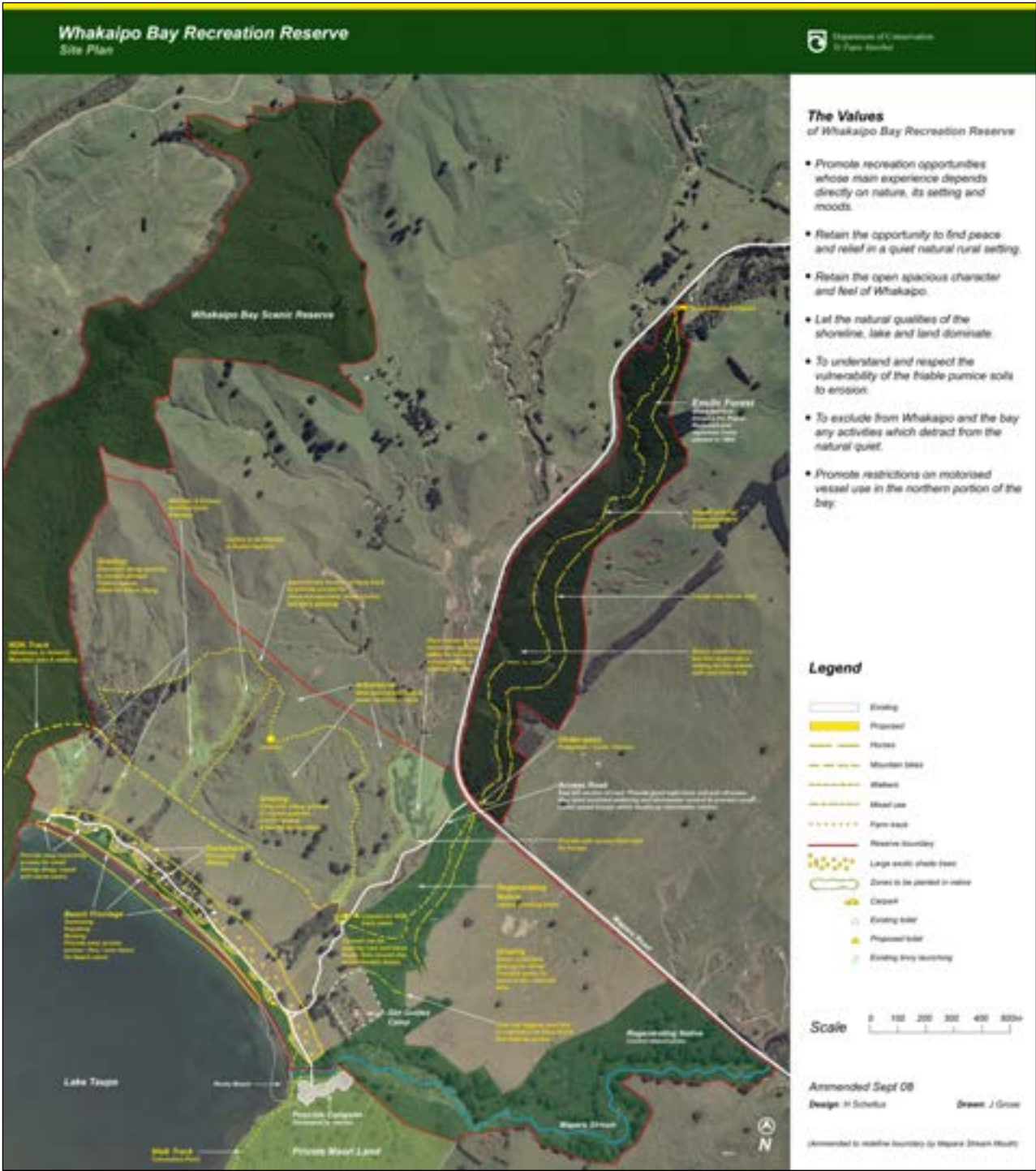


Figure 3: Whakaipō Bay Recreation Reserve Concept Plan 2008

### 8.3. Outcomes from the 2015 Consultation

The 2015 consultation process outlined previously, strongly indicated alignment with the values expressed in 2008, which themselves were based on the Whakaipō Bay Nature Park Management Plan (1977). In summary that is, that Whakaipō Bay is unique in the Taupō area due to the tranquillity, scenery, the non-commercial nature of uses; it is a peaceful,



## 9. Historical Context

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This section of the report describes the known history of Whakaipō Bay and has been taken from a variety of sources. These are likely to be part but not all of the history of Whakaipō Bay, and are presented here to provide some historical context to the current management plan, rather than attempting to be a precise historical record. Some of the sources are previous reports where the original source of the information may not be known. Where the source is known this has been stated.

During the consultation process, 80% of respondents stated that they are interested in the history of Whakaipō Bay. This is considered to demonstrate a personal investment in the reserve and supports the installation of interpretation panels to highlight the history of the location and the reserve itself.

### 9.1. The Māori History of Whakaipō Bay

In terms of place names, Whakaipō is said to mean ‘Night Arrival.’ Tāhunatara has two applicable meanings, being Tāhunatara – an assemblance of chiefs, or Tahuna – bed or land in cultivation divided off by furrows.

The Ngāti Kāpawa hapū (family group) of the Ngāti Tūwharetoa iwi (tribe) lived at the eastern end of Whakaipō Bay, where once a fortified pa called Maunganui a Wawatai stood at the top of Tāhunatara Point. In later years there was also a thriving pa site at Tāhunatara Point near the lakefront. The clay cliff of Tāhunatara Point had tiered gardens, one of a few such gardens in New Zealand during pre-European times. The white clay cliff acted as a solar panel for the gardens giving the gardens a tropical temperature, perfect for growing kūmara. The hapū were joined at times of the year by other people who followed sources of food in the surrounding area. There is evidence today of kūmara pits and a tuwāhu (a place of worship). There are also remains of the front of a whare (house), and worn stone where pounamu (treasured greenstone) was polished. When the lake was lower than its current level, rocks were visible in the bay that had holes that were carved where the anchor of waka (canoes) were tied at bay. On land that is now within the reserve there was once a wānanga (training ground) for warriors, where they would practice with their taiaha.

In the 1800’s a Māori village and its people were sadly buried in a landslide in the western end of Whakaipō Bay. Te Tunī Point at the western end of Whakaipō Bay was mined for obsidian. The obsidian was traded for pounamu with South Island Iwi.

Today Ngāti Kāpawa hapū own land at the eastern end of Whakaipō Bay below Tāhunatara Point where they gather together, and own a boat ramp that the hapū can fish the lake from. This area and the facilities on it are made available to schools for camps throughout the school year. DOC also has a lease on some of this land where the Tāhunatara Point track is located.

Source: The Māori history of Whakaipō Bay was told by Ngāti Tūwharetoa kaumātua Reverend Sonny Garmonsway in 2010 as part of preparation for the Living Legends project.

## 9.2. The Girl Guide History of Whakaipō Bay

Women's intuition is said to have chosen the spot at Whakaipō Bay to be the Girl Guide camp site for the Taupō group. The Taupō Girl Guides group commenced operation in the 1940s, following which there was a seven year hiatus followed by a resurgence. Three women were behind this resurgence in the late 1950's, being Margaret Lindup, Marg Williams and Jill Dawson. Together they saw 'a vision for the women of tomorrow' and are remembered by a memorial stone placed at the campsite. Their legacy also lives on in the laughter and joy of the girls and women who have been gathering at Whakaipō Bay Girl Guide Camp since 1964.

Margaret Lindup spotted Whakaipō Bay while out on the lake one day, and knew straight away that it was meant to be. She had to let the Lands and Survey Department know of her change in mind, as a site on Mt Tauhara had recently been put aside for the Girl Guides, including completed fencing. The staff of the Lands and Survey Department gave the women a temporary five year lease for land at Whakaipō Bay, perhaps expecting another change of mind. But when Margaret's husband Allan, who was an engineer, along with Warren Gibson another engineer from Wairakei, helped the women to move and build their camp buildings, the Lands and Survey Department knew that it was not a temporary situation. A local contractor Don McLeod transported the camp building from Waipapa and used his D3 caterpillar tractor to make the road in, which is still the same road used today. The Girl Guides were there to stay, and won the respect of the Lands and Survey staff when they saw the women hard at work on their working bees.

The Taupō Girl Guides have attended every Whakaipō planting day since the first native tree was planted, 27 years ago. A tradition has now been established that after the end of every annual planting day the public have gathered back at the Girl Guide campsite and the girls barbeque sausages for everyone and have a billy boiling away for hot cuppas. It is hoped that this tradition will continue long in to the future.

Source: Historical Girl Guide Taupō information obtained from the collection of Margaret Lindup.



Camp serendipity 1969, Margaret Lindup on the right

### 9.3. Whakaipō Bay – a chronological history

Below is a chronological history of Whakaipō Bay, taken from a variety of sources.

1500's	Ngāti Hotu occupied the area.
1700's	Ngāti Kurapoto occupied the area.
1850's	A settlement existed known as Rua Whakaipō. The last chief was Hohepa Tamautu.
1882	702 hectares of land was purchased by the Crown.
1963	Part of the Acacia Farm Settlement tree block 1963. The land was cleared for grazing.
1964	Girl Guide camp opened at Whakaipō Bay.
1964	As a soil conservation measure the gully north of Māpara Road (known in this report as the Douglas Fir Block) was planted in douglas fir and other species and subsequently managed for harvest. Poplars were planted at the gully bottoms. Some tōtara and beech were also planted.
1974	The 45.4 hectares of land that is now Whakaipō Bay Recreation Reserve was gazetted as a recreational reserve.
1977	'Whakaipō Bay Nature Park Management Plan' was prepared by H.A. Turbott for the Lake Taupō Reserves Board in January 1977. This report favoured the rustic, natural and quiet values of Whakaipō, and upheld it as a respite from urban sprawl.
1989	'Whakaipō Bay Management Plan' was prepared by P. Mathews, although mostly addressed the harvesting of the Douglas fir planted in 1964.
1991-1995	A local landowner offered a land swap for the wetland area at the top of the Māpara Stream involving 14 hectares of land, which is currently under a Land Improvement Agreement. The land swap was declined.
1993	The site survey and preparation of a concept plan for the reserve undertaken by Titchener Monzingo Aitken, Landscape Architects Ltd.
1994	A water ski lane was proposed at Whakaipō Bay, but subsequently declined.

1995	Whakaipō 1D Trust approached DOC regarding the lease of land at the eastern end of Whakaipō Bay.
1996	DOC negotiated a lease from Whakaipō 1D Trust for 73 hectares for 25 years, which enabled the track to Tāhunatara Point to operate.
1997	An Environmental Impact Assessment was completed for the removal of radiata pine near the Girl Guides Camp.
1997	Māpara Stream fence and track upgrade completed.
2000	Eco toilets built at the Girl Guides Camp.
2004	Douglas fir thinned within the Douglas Fir Block.
2004	Need for management plan for Whakaipō urged by Waikato Regional Council, regarding nitrogen levels entering the lake and continuing grazing leases. Conservation Board recommendation that DOC writes a management plan for Whakaipō and Five Mile Bay Reserves.
2006	Security issues were becoming more prevalent, particular issues with four-wheel drive and all-terrain vehicles on the reserve, parties, fires and sheep theft.
2006	Re-cladding of bunk room at the Girl Guides Camp.
2006	Lakeview Ventures Ltd proposed a large Māpara Road development, including putting water pipes through the reserve.
2007	Exotic trees planted near the foreshore within cages.
2008	Security firm was engaged to assist with managing on-going security issues at the reserve.
2008	Opening of the W2K track by Bike Taupō.
2008	Funding proposal to Ministry for the Environment for 'Kick the CO2 habit' was awarded. Funding proposal to Rotary was awarded. Funding proposal to Waikato Regional Council for 'Project Watershed' funding for fencing for stock exclusion was awarded.

2008	'Save Whakaipō Bay and Māpara Valley' opposition building to a 2000 lot subdivision and township urban development, and the associated Weka road proposed by Taupō District Council as part of the Māpara Valley Structure Plan.
2008	Lakeview Ventures Ltd taken to the Environment Court by Māpara Residents Association.
2010	Whakaipō Bay was selected as one of 17 sites for the community conservation project 'Living Legends 2011-2013' for community native tree plantings.
2011	The Freedom Camping Act 2011 was enacted by the government in preparation for the Rugby World Cup 2011, with the aim of facilitating freedom camping.
2014	Tongariro Taupō Conservation Board expressed ongoing concerns with DOC's slow progress regarding issues at Whakaipō Bay such as signage and camping issues. DOC responded by initiating a project plan for formulating a Whakaipō Bay Management Plan.
2014	Whakaipō Bay was selected for further funding from the Tindal Foundation 2014-2016 for on-going planting. Greening Taupō took the lead on running the annual native tree plantings with DOC support.
2014	Renewed off-road vehicle activity was met with a press release and several trespass notices being issued.
2015	Whakaipō Bay Management Plan process commences August 2015.
2016	Whakaipō Bay Management Plan finalised June 2016.

## 10. Cultural Recognition

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A positive element of the consultation process for this management plan has been that DOC engaged with three local marae and neighbouring Trust on how best to manage the Whakaipō Bay Recreation Reserve and protect the significant values present. These marae were Nukuhau, Mokai and Oruanui and Whakaipō 1D Trust.

Whakaipō Bay is a highly significant place for hapū, with waahi tapu, taonga and places of cultural importance within the area now covered by the reserve. There are several known historic pā sites (fortified settlement) and kainga (village or settlement) within or near the reserve.

There have previously been archaeological surveys of Whakaipō Bay. The best known of which is an archaeological survey of the eastern part of Whakaipō Bay by Ann Williams in 1994 (RES 075). There was also a historic study conducted as part of a land valuation process for the Whakaipō 1D tree block (J.S. Veitch and Associates September 1994) that included a historic investigation. A similar historic investigation was conducted for the Whakaipō 1D tree block trustees in April 1997 by Perry Fletcher.

Local hapū want to enhance their role as Kaitiaki (guardian) and continue to use the reserve for cultural purposes such as harvesting rongoā (traditional medicine) or fishing for kōura. There is a desire to share information and stories from tangata whenua perspective to enhance knowledge about the site and its significance.

The Māpara Stream in particular is a highly valued taonga and has been described as a 'life vein' of Lake Taupō, with the on-going stewardship of Māpara stream being of great importance. The restoration and protection of Māpara stream and waahi tapu sites is of great significance. There is a desire for hapū to become partners with DOC in the on-going management of the reserve in some form of co-management arrangement.

Discussions to date have identified some common issues of concern and some different perspectives on how the reserve should be managed. The parties have agreed to continue discussion into how this would work.

***Priority task: That DOC fosters on-going relationships with local hapū about the management of Whakaipō Bay Recreation Reserve.***

***Priority task: That DOC fosters on-going relationship with Whakaipo 1D Trust about the management of Whakaipō Bay Recreation Reserve and links with the Trust's land.***

***Priority task: That DOC and local hapū seek to identify opportunities to reflect the cultural values and aspirations held for the reserve, including the restoration of the Māpara stream.***



## 11. Recreation

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Consultation on recreational uses at Whakaipō Bay Recreation Reserve and how pressure should be managed in the future indicated the wide range of recreational uses present at the reserve. A 'word cloud' analysis on how people use the reserve shows the majority of use is passive recreation on the lake edge and utilising the lake itself. Biking and horse riding are both popular recreational uses at the reserve. The word cloud diagram is below with the larger words being those most frequently represented in the consultation feedback received.



Figure 5: Word Cloud for recreation uses at the reserve

The most common responses to the question of what new opportunities people would like to see were horse trails, more mountain bike tracks, and playground/picnic tables. There were other less common suggestions such as provision for a boat ramp, a place to swim horses, archery facilities, rock climbing facilities, a dog agility area, a Frisbee golf course, a tree swing, and a poled walk through the reserve up the gullies and through paddock areas.

Existing recreation uses at Whakaipō Bay Recreation Reserve are detailed below, including future provision for the uses.

## 11.1. Horse riding

Horse riding has a long-established presence on the reserve given the rural location and wide open spaces available. The Māpara Pony Club held a concession for horse-related activities on the reserve from 1998-2013, but has now disbanded. Horse riders who frequent the reserve now, are not part of an organised club or group but rather are local residents who use Whakaipō Bay as one of several locations for riding. There are no facilities on the reserve specifically for horse riders, and the horse trails are relatively informal routes across the reserve.

During consultation it was reported that past recreational horse riding loop tracks have gradually become shared biking/walking tracks. Due to public health and safety issues, horse riders reportedly have difficulty with shared tracks, and for that reason new opportunities were sought for providing horse riding tracks within the reserve. It is also evident that some horse riders wish to access the lake to allow their horses to swim. This is not an activity supported by DOC, and in the past Tūwharetoa has also expressed the view that this is not appropriate anywhere within the lake.

The Douglas Fir Block was investigated as a potential location for a horse-only trail, as there is no current proposal to log the trees. The proposal was that vehicle access be provided at an existing car parking area at the northern end of this area located from Māpara Road, and that horse riders themselves be tasked with building and maintaining their own horse trail through this area. This would avoid the need for horse riders to attempt to cross Māpara Road which is a safety hazard. Several local horse riders (Laurie Burdett and Bev Birkett) walked through the Douglas Fir Block to establish suitability and potential routes. The outcome of that investigation was that due to the presence of obscured tomos (subsided ground, caves) and escarpments, that in fact the block was not suitable for developing horse trails.

In 2008, there was a proposal to construct a road underpass beneath Māpara Road for safety. This proposal is prohibitively expensive and is not considered to have been justified by the amount of recreational usage within the Douglas Fir Block, or sought by members of the public during the consultation in 2015.

Horse riders expressed a strong interest in obtaining access to the Eastern Block which is land currently grazed and is accessed directly from Māpara Road. A proposal discussed with horse riders has been facilitating access to a locked gate along the Māpara Road frontage (probably a padlock with a combination number that would be communicated to horse riders), to facilitate horse riding within the Eastern Block. The only physical works that might be required would be an enhanced vehicle entranceway directly from Māpara Road into the Eastern Block, and possibly provision for a parking area for horse floats and some horse-related facilities on the land. The proposal is that DOC assist with facilitating this, but that the horse-riders themselves undertake the investigations and any physical works are required to implement the proposal.

Discussions held with the grazing concessionaire have indicated that aside from lambing during spring, that there are no issues with horse riders using the Eastern Block. The compromise will be that riders will not be able to use the Eastern Block during the lambing

season with agreement of the dates of this exclusion period to be agreed between the parties. Use of this location for horse riding is also consistent with the recreation reserve classification of the land. The proposal is that the grazing concession would remain unchanged in respect of the Eastern Block and the use would be shared.

A further aspect of this proposal is the clearance of the historic logging route from the Eastern Block across the gully to the back of the Girl Guides Camp. This would provide opportunities for loop tracks to be created between the Eastern block and the main body of the reserve with minimal works required to achieve this. There are no other physical works required to facilitate this proposal and discussions regarding the logistics of this are currently occurring.

*Priority task: DOC will facilitate further discussions with horse riders and the grazing concessionaire to identify and resolve any logistical issues with the proposal. There will be no cost for DOC with horse riders funding the costs associated with any upgrade required to the Māpara Road entrance or other costs.*

## 11.2. Mountain Biking

The W2K is a popular mountain bike and walking track that travels from Whakaipō Bay to Kinloch, attracting 50 to 100 people per day. The W2K track is now the biggest recreational element of the Whakaipō Bay Recreation Reserve. Volunteers from Bike Taupō took five years building the track in association with DOC. The track was opened in April 2008 with the Headland Loop extension added in 2009 with the total length of the track now 25km. The track is now part of the greater 'Great Lake Trail', a trail which now totals 80km of track on the western shores of Lake Taupō as part of Nga Haerenga, the New Zealand Cycle Trail project. It is an optional three day ride, with boat shuttle connections.

The W2K track starts at the western end of the foreshore. It includes a large shelter with information boards and serves to create a sense of arrival. There is also a public toilet nearby and some parking readily available. There have been issues with congestion in this area, as this part of the reserve has also become a popular freedom camping place and the boat ramps for launching dinghies and kayaks are also located here. The shelter gives this location the feel of the 'park headquarters' given the general lack of built facilities elsewhere within the reserve.

Before the W2K was built, the 2008 concept plan saw the track starting at the 'hub area' near the reserve entrance and utilising the pre-existing farm track that crosses the reserve. There are stiles at either end of the track, put in by the grazing concessionaire for access as this informal track is already popular with both walkers and bikers. By advertising this option more, this would reduce congestion at the western end. It also allows for a track within the reserve with a more gradual contour, and would enable the track to incorporate some of the planted gullies.

Consideration has been given to the possibility of a mountain bike loop track within the Douglas fir tree block. Previously there has been an expression of interest from Bike Taupō



The shelter at the start of the W2K track

to build a track through this part of the reserve. The decision by DOC not to harvest the trees within the Douglas fir tree block also provides certainty of the availability of this land as it will remain a heavily vegetated landscape. However, during the consultation process Bike Taupō indicated they would be unlikely to pursue this opportunity given other priorities.

Bike Taupō have expressed interest in realigning the start/finish of the W2K track near the existing bike shelter, as the existing track is steep and a difficult section. This would involve Bike Taupō constructing 'switch backs' to create a more gradual contour for this section of the track.

Bike Taupō have advised their long term goal is to extend the W2K through the reserve towards the east to eventually link up with Rangatira Point. Whilst still a concept this would involve a 'cross-reserve track' that exits the reserve at an unknown point along the eastern boundary.

Bike Taupō have also expressed interest in a downhill track at Whakaipō Bay. The concept is that a concessionaire would run a shuttle service accessing the site through a farm track up to an elevated point at the western end of the reserve with the downhill track then finishing near the existing W2K track start/finish. Riders themselves would need to park in the reserve either at the W2K end, or at the central hub area. Bike Taupō have expressed an ambition in creating a world-class downhill track at Whakaipō Bay that would lift Taupō from silver to gold level International Mountain Bike Association rating, and create the potential for professional competitions. A detailed proposal has not been presented to DOC, although informal discussions have described the vision. Aspects of this project would need to be carefully considered in relation to the values of the reserve, considering its popularity potential and the numbers of visitors that might be generated, and the values identified by the public for the Whakaipō Bay Recreation Reserve.

DOC will facilitate further discussions with Bike Taupō to better understand the future proposals that Bike Taupō have for the reserve and wider area.

### 11.3. Boating

Recreational boating is a popular activity on Lake Taupō, with bays such as Whakaipō Bay being popular places to anchor and come ashore. Jet skis and water skiing are also popular activities. Whakaipō Bay is also a popular launching place for kayaks and dinghies, with wooden launching platforms located at the western end of the lakefront near the W2K start/finish.

The navigational safety requirements are that boats within 200 metres of the shoreline are limited to a 5 knot maximum speed, marked by a red and white buoy. Local knowledge suggests that Whakaipō Bay can also be a difficult area for small boats when the wind changes from the southwest to the eastern corner.

There have been complaints to DOC from locals that some jet skiers do not adhere to the above speed limit rules in close proximity to the shoreline. The enclosed nature of Whakaipō Bay also means that noise from jet skis can have a particularly detrimental effect on the quiet and remote values that the community hold for Whakaipō Bay. Navigational



Launching site for small boats at the western end of the bay

safety and speed limits are issues managed by the Taupō harbour master with DOC having no control over these matters.

There have been some members of the community seeking enhanced boat ramp facilities for motorised craft, but this is a minority view. The community expressed strongly during the consultation that facilitating more motorised boating at Whakaipō Bay is contrary to the

‘natural, quiet and rustic’ held by the community. DOC considers that these facilities are provided for elsewhere, and does not intend to provide further boat ramps.

The installation of a ski lane was proposed in April 1994 by the Taupō harbour master. The proposal was rejected at the time.

DOC considers that maintaining the status quo should be the preferred option in terms of boating.

*Priority task: None*

## 11.4. Fishing

The Māpara Stream is a renowned spawning stream and is also one of few such streams entering Lake Taupō from the north. The Māpara Stream is the only spawning stream between Kinloch and Waitahanui and therefore is of great significance. The stream lies within a gully that is culverted at Māpara Road, with the gully then running along the eastern boundary of the reserve to a stream mouth near the eastern end of the reserve lakefront.



Spin fishing at the western end of the bay

The land on the southern side of Māpara Stream is private land that is grazed, and Whakaipō 1D Trust property (some of which is the land leased by DOC). The DOC Fishery Team undertakes vegetation clearance along the Māpara Stream on an as-needed basis to protect the values of the stream. The stream is also known for poaching and the DOC Fishery Team regularly undertakes compliance activity in this area.

Fly fishing of the Māpara stream mouth from the beach is a popular recreational activity, especially in the summer months. This is renowned as a productive fishing spot, and is one of only a few easily accessible fly fishing locations close to Taupō Township.

Fishing in the bay itself is also extremely popular, with the reef at Tāhunatara Point, the cliffs on the western side and deep holes within the bay all allow for a variety of fishing methods. Boats of all sizes make their way to Whakaipō Bay from launch sites at both Kinloch and Taupō, and many small craft (dinghy and kayak) can make use of the 'ramp' facility within the reserve to launch directly from the beach in Whakaipō Bay.

*Priority task: None*

## 11.5. The Girl Guide Camp and School Camps

As described earlier in this report the Girl Guides have a long association and relationship with Whakaipō Bay with the existing Girl Guide camp being established in 1964, and Girl Guide activities on the reserve prior to that. Several additions have been made to the camp buildings over the years and the Girl Guides have indicated a desire to remain at the reserve for the long term. There do not appear to be any issues or concerns with the presence of the Girl Guides Camp or their activities on the reserve. For this reason there is a strong likelihood that the existing concession held by the Girl Guides will continue to be extended into the future.

The Girl Guides also have a strong history and relationship with the native tree plantings of which they have participated in annually since 1988. Following every annual planting, the Girl Guides host members of the community involved with the planting and cook the sausage sizzle at their camp site. The Girl Guides have become a highly valued part of the Whakaipō Bay Recreation Reserve.

Tauhara College has a history of holding camps at the reserve. Previously Tauhara College wrote a letter to DOC expressing frustration at the removal of a bivvy that they used. The bivvy had been removed as it was not up to health and safety standards. The College also runs an annual water skills camp at the reserve.

The Whakaipō 1D Trust (private land adjacent to the reserve) also has a camp facility on their property, with a toilet block and several other camp buildings. Whilst not located on the reserve, vehicle access is obtained via the reserve. Both the Girl Guides and the Whakaipō 1D Trust hire their campsites out to schools.

*Priority task: None*

## 11.6. Walking / Orienteering / Geocaching / Sporting Events

There are also a variety of other recreational uses of Whakaipō Bay Recreation Reserve, ranging from casual use, use by clubs and staging of events. DOC holds a file containing a number of letters received requesting permission to use the reserve for various sporting events such as Tri-sport Taupō, the annual Oxfam Trail Walker event (which moved to Whakatane in 2016), the new trail running event Taupo Ultramarathon and events for the Taupō Orienteering Club and Taupō Amateur Radio Club.

Walking and running are popular recreational pursuits at the reserve. The existing walking tracks are the Tāhunatara Point track (which is not actually within the reserve but rather on the land leased by DOC), the W2K track, and various informal walks around the re-planted gully areas. The future of the lease of land from the Whakaipō Bay 1D Trust and as a consequence the Tāhunatara Point track is being considered as the lease expires in July 2021. Future walking tracks will likely be informal tracks provided within the gully areas with regenerating native forest.

As part of Conservation Week geocaching has been popularised as a current recreational activity. Geocaching is a form of orientation activity using GPS technology to find hidden physical boxes or caches which can include tags and trinkets to collect. The geocache community now extends to international travellers 'collecting' cache finds. Members of the public and DOC have already placed geocaches at Whakaipō Bay, with the potential for DOC to add more and propose a regional 'geocache trail' linking from the Eastern Bay of Plenty to Tongariro. As part of the upgrade of signage at the reserve, a geocaching activity symbol will be included.

These activities are considered by DOC to be low impact activities on the reserve, and generally DOC seeks to support one-off or annual events at the reserve given the absence of impacts on the environment or other reserve users. In some cases a concession is applied for holding of events which provides a more formal consideration of the activity and potential impacts. Such concession application will always be evaluated in terms of whether the use sought is congruent with the established values for the reserve and does not impact negatively on other reserve users.

*Priority task: DOC to include geo caching on updated reserve signage.*



## 12. Camping

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Camping at the reserve was the most commented on topic during the public consultation process. The consultation feedback on camping is reported on below.

### 12.1. Historical camping patterns

There was no camping at Whakaipō Bay until 2011 when the Freedom Camping Act was enacted. Prior to 2011 DOC operated a general prohibition of freedom camping except in designated DOC camping groups or other locations where camping was expressly allowed. The impact of the Freedom Camping Act was to change the presumption regarding freedom camping, such that DOC had to impose controls on freedom camping through the Government Gazette process. Whilst DOC has not promoted Whakaipō Bay as a location for camping in any way, the growth of freedom camping at Whakaipō Bay has been rapid and is likely to continue. This is because the impact of the Freedom Camping Act was both to raise awareness amongst the public that freedom camping on public land was allowed (except in specific locations where restrictions were imposed), and also that it prevented local authorities and DOC from arbitrarily restricting freedom camping.

### 12.2. What is freedom camping?

The term freedom camping means to camp in locations other than in commercial camp grounds. The Freedom Camping Act 2011 is the legislation that regulates freedom camping and has the following definition:

“Freedom camp means to camp (other than at a camping ground) within 200 m of a motor vehicle accessible area or the mean low-water springs line of any sea or harbour, or on or within 200 m of a formed road or a Great Walks Track, using 1 or more of the following:

- a. a tent or other temporary structure:
- b. a caravan:
- c. a car, campervan, house truck, or other motor vehicle.

Freedom camping does not include the following activities:

- a. temporary and short-term parking of a motor vehicle:
- b. recreational activities commonly known as day-trip excursions:
- c. resting or sleeping at the roadside in a caravan or motor vehicle to avoid driver fatigue.”

The purpose of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 is to regulate freedom camping specifically on public land ‘controlled or managed by local authorities’ and the Department of Conservation under the Conservation Act 1987, the National Parks Act 1980, the Reserves Act 1977, or the Wildlife Act 1953. The legislation does not regulate freedom camping on

private land (usually this is managed by district plans), nor does the legislation allow for freedom camping to be prohibited on all land controlled or managed by a particular local authority or on all land controlled or managed by the Department. There are currently no restrictions on freedom camping at the Whakaipō Bay Recreation Reserve.

### 12.3. DOC Freedom Camping Policy and Criteria

DOC has a national policy on freedom camping which reiterates a general commitment to increasing participation in outdoor recreation, and that DOC wishes to only control freedom camping where it is causing real problems or where the issues cannot be managed in another way. This is in accordance with the presumption of the legislation that freedom camping should generally be provided for, and only controlled or prohibited in certain locations where there are demonstrable issues justifying such a regulatory response. The DOC national policy sets out criteria for gazettal of freedom camping restrictions at a particular place on public conservation land. The gazettal criteria are as follows:

- Freedom camping is inconsistent with legislation or statutory planning documents relevant to the site, including outcomes at places
- Significant public health or safety issues caused (or exacerbated) by freedom camping
- Significant environmental issues exist (e.g. flora or fauna on site that could be compromised by freedom camping activity)
- Complaints have been received from the public of noxious, dangerous, offensive or objectionable activities/substances at the site that has caused significant concern to the community or users of the area as a result of freedom camping activity
- Freedom camping activity is incompatible with other legitimate activity on site or other user groups (e.g. day use parking is limited by overnight vehicle camping; significantly detracting from the visual experience of other visitors at a site with high visual value etc.)
- Staff are aware of a history of significant problems related to freedom camping on site

DOC has the following categories for freedom camping sites:

- a) Freedom camping sites (freedom camping permitted and the sites are actively communicated to the public)
- b) Standard (freedom camping permitted, no specific communication to the public)
- c) Restricted (freedom camping only permitted if conditions relevant to that site met e.g. self-contained only)
- d) Prohibited (no camping)

In terms of category C sites, there are then various restriction categories being:

1. Self-Contained Only
2. Restricted Duration of stay
3. Restricted Hours of stay
4. Restricted Months of stay

*Source: DOC Freedom Camping Notices, Policy and Criteria 2015: DOC 2533886*

The status quo at the reserve is category B 'Standard' as there are no restrictions currently on freedom camping, but DOC does not actively promote Whakaipō Bay as a freedom camping site, but rather the growth has been 'organic' word-of-mouth promotion amongst freedom campers themselves.

DOC has a commitment to increasing participation in outdoor recreation and this includes freedom camping. The Freedom Camping Act has the presumption that freedom camping is



generally permitted on public conservation land, and it is expected that the majority of land DOC administer will be available for freedom camping. The presumption within the legislation and DOC's national policy on freedom camping, is that freedom camping should only be restricted where there is no better management solution. Freedom camping should only be prohibited at sites where there are real and significant issues that cannot be addressed via restrictions or other management solutions. If there is a way to address the problem without restricting or prohibiting freedom camping, that should be preferred. The legislation does provide for enforcement with effective, immediate tools to address inappropriate freedom camping waste or damage to the site with \$200 'instant fines'.

#### 12.4. Consultation Outcomes

DOC presented a range of possible options for camping at Whakaipō Bay to illicit feedback from the community. These options were the development of a commercial campground run by a private operator; development of a DOC camping ground; imposing gazetted restrictions on freedom camping; maintaining the status quo which is unrestricted freedom camping; and imposing a prohibition on camping. The summary of consultation responses is displayed in the table below:

	Yes	No	Blank
Oppose all camping	20%	78%	2%
Remain an unrestricted freedom camping site	46%	52%	2%
Designate areas for camping	59%	38%	3%
Gazette restrictions on camping	75%	20%	5%
DOC managed campsite	33%	63%	4%
Commercial campground	6%	92%	2%

Table 2: Consultation responses on freedom camping

There is clear opposition to any commercial camping operation in the reserve. There was also some opposition to the establishment of a DOC managed campsite. The majority of responses supported a continuation of freedom camping in principle, with a fairly even split as to whether this should remain unrestricted or whether restrictions should be imposed. The majority of responses supported restrictions being imposed on restricting location within the reserve, and the majority also supported other restrictions (meaning being self-contained vehicles, length of stay etc).

Whilst 20% of respondents outright opposed freedom camping at the reserve, it should be noted that a petition was received from Nukuhau Marae (Ngāti Rauhoto) with 100 signatures opposing camping. In response DOC has been in further discussions with Ngāti Rauhoto regarding this.

An advantage of establishing a camp ground would be to provide a revenue stream that can be invested in replanting and providing facilities at the reserve.

## 12.5. Freedom Camping Issues

The community responses to the topic of freedom camping can generally be characterised as follows.

Freedom campers are now a significant minority in the community that are represented by the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association (NZMCA). Freedom campers as a part of the community tend to be well connected via social media, have an active advocacy presence in local authority bylaws on freedom camping, and with DOC on processes such as this one. Freedom camping as an activity is enabled by the legislation, and freedom campers provide significant economic activity for rural communities through the country. A typical pro-freedom camping response received was that freedom camping:

*“is what makes New Zealand attractive to me as an overseas annual visitor. The more restrictions imposed, the less appealing your country will be to the long-stay visitors like myself who have bought self-contained motor homes specifically to visit areas like this.”*

Those in opposition to freedom camping emphasise the values of Whakaipō Bay and assert that unrestricted freedom camping is detrimental to those values. Anecdotal information received is that there are issues of rubbish being left behind, and faeces and toilet paper being left in vegetated areas are commonly cited concerns. The numbers of freedom campers is also a commonly cited issue and that many of the vehicles do not appear to be self-contained vehicles and therefore the occupants are reliant on facilities at the reserve. Whilst there are two toilets on the reserve, there is no water supply available for freedom campers for washing or ablutions. Also that camping is provided for adequately in so many locations around the district, and is not necessary to be provided for also at the reserve. A typical anti-freedom camping response received:

*“As a local Whakaipō Bay resident of 13 years we have always enjoyed having such a beautiful bay at our doorstep. We love how it is not built up by housing and is a quiet paradise oasis away from the bustling tourist town in summer. We do notice the pressure it goes under in the height of summer months and try to avoid the chaos times as much as possible... BUT freedom campers really should be discouraged. They have definitely been on the increase in the last couple of years. On two occasions last summer my dog has come back covered in human faeces. The freedom campers do not appear to camp near the toilets provided and you will observe more toilet paper in amongst the shrubbery etc. Also they tend to spread themselves out right on the beach access ramps, stiles etc., which isn't that convenient. I am not opposed to campers in general... I think Taupō provides well for them already and it would be nice to keep the bay from going under pressure and remaining as natural as possible.”*

It is also apparent that congestion near the W2K start/finish shelter at the western end of the lakefront has become a significant issue during peak periods in recent years. This is due to a combination of the popularity for the W2K track and the increased demand for parking from bikers, the boat launching ramps for kayaks and dinghies being in this area, the presence of one of the two toilets on the reserve, and that the area is a popular place for freedom campers as it is sheltered and shaded and in close proximity to a toilet. The entirety of the reserve nearest the lakefront is also a popular freedom camping location, as well as being the most highly used portion of the reserve for day-users.

A response would be to designate specific areas for freedom campers, to encourage them away from the most congested areas on the reserve. This could also be achieved through providing facilities in some under-utilised areas of the reserve as a 'draw-card'. The existing toilet facilities were designed for day-use of the reserve and pre-dated the advent of freedom camping which has only emerged as a use of the reserve since 2011. Some of the feedback responses supporting this approach were similar to this response:

*“I value that it is an untouched and natural environment, it should stay that way... It's a shame freedom campers park all along the access points in their giant buses and campers and practically live there in summer... Suggest this summer coming [DOC] put a sign up suggesting these people to park on the opposite side of the road, not the beach side.”*

## 12.6. Future Options for Camping at Whakaipō Bay

Retaining the status quo (unrestricting freedom camping as provided for by the Freedom Camping Act 2011) is likely to lead to a continuing increase in the numbers of campers and possibly the length of stay. There are no facilities on the reserve to accommodate any form of freedom camping other than self-contained vehicles. The two possible responses in this regard are to provide such facilities (such as a shelter with a water supply for washing dishes and enhanced facilities for ablutions), or to impose some freedom camping restrictions to manage the potential impacts of freedom campers.

DOC considers that providing additional infrastructure on the reserve to provide for more freedom camping is not a priority, given the existing camping options that exist in the district in general, that freedom camping as a general activity is provided for by the legislation on public conservation land anyway, and that the growth of freedom camping is robust without any encouragement or promotional activity undertaken by DOC.

Whilst the anecdotal feedback was that many of the issues with rubbish, toilet paper and faeces being left on the reserve and on adjoining private land, and behavioural issues reported relate to freedom campers, DOC does not consider that these can all be linked to freedom campers. In particular that freedom camping restrictions being imposed requires a higher burden of proof that these impacts are derived from freedom campers and not day-users of the reserve. The criteria within DOC's national policy on freedom camping requires the criteria to be met with robust data prior to restrictions being gazetted. The proposal was that DOC implement a monitoring programme during the 2015/2016 summer to record numbers of freedom campers, the proportion of self-contained vehicles versus non self-contained, and recording of complaints/issues with freedom campers. This will provide an evidence base to justify any restrictions on freedom camping to be gazetted during 2016. The philosophy with the DOC national policy on freedom camping is that if there are ways to address problems without restricting or prohibiting freedom camping, then this should be preferred.

There are positive aspects to freedom camping on the reserve, despite the negative perception reported during public consultation. The following section of this plan is about behavioural issues and security, and in this respect freedom campers being on the reserve provide a useful passive surveillance function by having 'eyes and ears' at the reserve, given that DOC staff cannot be always be present. Camping is likely to be a positive influence in terms of there being a presence of people on the reserve.

There is evidently a strong demand for camping within the Taupō District generally, given the popularity of other freedom camping places such as Five Mile Bay (administered by DOC) and the lake front parking sites (administered by Taupō District Council). Also administered by TDC is Reid's Farm, an extremely popular site now facing an uncertain future due to behavioural issues. If Reid's Farm is closed permanently this will certainly reduce freedom camping options in the area and could put added pressure on existing sites. The values held by the public for Whakaipō Bay are different and freedom camping needs to be managed accordingly to preserve those values. Over the ten year period of this management plan the growth of freedom camping is likely to continue, although not at the rate that it has since 2011. DOC will need to actively manage freedom camping issues if

they emerge to ensure the site retains the values so clearly identified during the consultation process.

Some physical changes are proposed in the 'Infrastructure Works' section of this plan to better manage freedom camping. Signage is proposed to discourage freedom camping in the congested western end of the lakefront, and planting of shade trees and mowing to encourage freedom camping in other less congested parts of the reserve and to provide shade, shelter and some separation from day users. Signage to make abundantly clear the expectations on all reserve users including freedom campers will also become a feature of the reserve to protect the special values of Whakaipō Bay.

The Whakaipō 1D Trust has in the past promoted the concept of operating a campground within their own land, and remains interested in pursuing this. This would likely involve vehicle access being obtained via the reserve as there is no alternative access. DOC generally supports this concept in principle subject to operational details being considered, but it is for the Trust itself to pursue the project.

## 12.7. Future growth and DOC national strategy

All DOC visitor sites are categorised into one of 4 categories (Icon, Gateway, Local Treasure or Backcountry). Each category was developed to meet the needs of a different user group. The categories inform DOC on how to manage a destination to meet the primary user needs and where to focus to gain the best return for our efforts.

Whakaipō Bay Recreation Reserve is classified as a 'local treasure' for its location, visitor numbers and opportunities. As growth increases over the ten year management plan period, particularly with camping and mountain biking interest, the reserve may need to be re-classified with a regional focus as a 'Gateway' site. This would increase the potential for capital investment at the site.

**Locally treasured destinations** are managed to grow community connection with, and use of, their locally important places.

These are the special places that people from a community have a connection with. They are part of people's local identity. Local treasures provide opportunities for communities to take ownership and contribute to conservation where it matters to them. These destinations should complement (not compete) with what is provided by councils, private providers or other DOC destinations. The focus is on meeting the recreation needs of the local community.

**Gateway destinations** are developed to introduce new participants and to grow recreation in the outdoors.

Gateways are the places that connect new people to the outdoors. They introduce the next generation of outdoor users and grow family participation. Visitors feel safe and the places are welcoming. Gateway experiences are easy to access, easy to engage with and fun. These places become a 'gateway' to long term participation in outdoor recreation.

If changed to a Gateway, the recreation reserve would be eligible for increased capital funding for infrastructure upgrades and additions such as roading and amenities. In line with this, nationally DOC are investigating high growth freedom camping sites, with the expectation that some of the sites may need to be formalised as managed campgrounds. This would not only control non-compliance on the reserve, but provide a revenue stream for reserve management.

DOC's national recreation team, with local support will need to undertake a feasibility study for a DOC managed campsite including a demand analysis, an economic benefit analysis, structural requirements and costs.

## 12.8. Self-contained Vehicles

For sites where human waste disposal is an issue, it may be appropriate to restrict freedom camping to self-contained vehicles only. This meets the objectives of encouraging responsible camping, managing adverse effects at a particular site whilst complying with the intent of the Freedom Camping Act that freedom camping is to be generally permitted. Whilst various other 'containment systems' exist these are considered inappropriate at sites where managing human waste is a significant issue. Chemical toilets provide a limited solution for black water disposal but do not address grey water issues.

There are also that are referred to as 'low-tech composting systems' (e.g. 20 litre bucket and sawdust with waste being disposed of by camper into compost piles where they have consent) may be appropriate at some sites where there is not a significant waste issue but general authorisation of them would be inefficient and unfair on enforcement staff who would be required to assess each particular system and monitor whether the camper is actively and responsibly using it (i.e. simply having a bucket on board does not provide security that it will be used effectively). The consistent and responsible use of low tech systems by the bulk of freedom campers renting vehicles would require major educational resource and cultural shifts.

DOC's position for the particular circumstances of Whakaipō Bay is that given the absence of facilities for freedom campers that only self-contained vehicles that comply with the New Zealand Standard NZS5465 Self-Containment of Motor Caravans and Caravans Standard should be allowed on the reserve. The New Zealand standard requires that a vehicle must be capable of containing all sewerage, grey water and refuse for a minimum of three days. This is favoured as discharge points for these systems are provided around the country by NZCMA, local authorities and DOC. The standard ensures total containment of both black and grey water and does not have the same chemical pollution risks of chemical toilets. The standard stickers are easily identifiable and provide an efficient method of enforcement officers assessing compliance. The standard is already incorporated into many local authority bylaws and has a strong compliance culture within both the rental and recreational sectors. Freedom camping involving tents or vehicles that do not meet the standard for self-containment is not favoured at Whakaipō Bay Recreation Reserve due to the inability of the occupants to manage their waste and the likely impacts on the reserve.



## 12.9. Location Restrictions

Consideration has been given to placing restrictions on where freedom campers should be located for overnight stays within the reserve. In particular consideration has been given for location restrictions for the noted congestion point at the western end of the lakefront near the W2K start/finish, and also more generally along the lakefront portion of the reserve. It does need to be acknowledged that much of the reserve is undulating with the main areas of flat land suitable for larger vehicles such as campervans, being located along the lakefront. Furthermore, whilst vehicles should be self-contained, the anecdotal feedback has been that some campers do not use the self-containment and still choose to use public toilets where they are available. DOC favours the discouragement of freedom camping at the western end of the lakefront only to relieve congestion in that one particular location. Some proposals on how to do this are contained in the section below on 'Infrastructure Works', but in the short term these will not be gazetted location restrictions, until such time as the monitoring programme has been completed and the results evaluated.

Location restrictions are not considered necessary at this time elsewhere given the amount of space available along the lakefront parking areas. The outcomes of the monitoring programme will inform future decisions regarding this however.

## 12.10. Other Restrictions

There are other restrictions on freedom camping that are sometimes placed on popular freedom camping locations. As an example, Five Mile Bay reserve is managed by DOC and has gazetted restrictions imposed requiring self-contained vehicles only and a four night per calendar month restriction. It may also be possible to impose restrictions on times of the day for vehicles to leave and dates of the year, but all requiring a justification for the need for restrictions.

The purpose of setting a maximum duration of stay is to avoid an indefinite stay that begins to become what is commonly referred to as 'squatting'. Linking the number of nights to a calendar month has the effect of avoiding a vehicle leaving for a short time and then returning, which defeats the purpose of the duration maximum.

*Priority task: That a monitoring programme be formulated and implemented during the 2015/2016 summer to record numbers of freedom campers, the proportion of self-contained vehicles versus non self-contained, and recording of complaints/issues with freedom campers. [Complete May 2016]*

*Priority task: That a 'no camping past this point' sign be installed immediately on the gate leading to the western end of the lakefront, to resolve congestion in this location. [Complete December 2015, monitoring has shown success]*

*Priority task: That signage be installed that clearly sets out the responsibilities of freedom campers during their stay on the reserve (see the section below on 'Infrastructure Works' for more on this).*

*Priority task: That DOC commences the gazettal process in 2016 for gazetting restrictions on freedom camping at Whakaipō Bay Recreation Reserve. The restrictions are to be confirmed following the completion of the monitoring programme, but likely to be restrictions on self-contained vehicles in accordance with New Zealand Standard NZS5465 Self-Containment of Motor Caravans and Caravans Standard, and restrictions on the number of nights that freedom campers are allowed to remain on the reserve.*

*Priority task: That DOC undertakes a feasibility study for a DOC managed campsite including a demand analysis, an economic benefit analysis, structural requirements and costs.*

*Priority task: That DOC review the option to change the destination category to "Gateway", to allow for better options to bid for capital funding.*

## 13. Behaviour and Safety Issues

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This topic is about issues with the behaviour of reserve users and how DOC staff and others can manage behaviour to ensure that all users of the reserve respect the special values of Whakaipō Bay. More specifically, this section focuses on reported issues of four-wheel drive/all-terrain vehicles and motorbikes using the reserve as a 'race track', control of dogs on the reserve, fires, parties, litter and toileting, and general behaviour of reserve users when it affects other reserve users.

The status quo at the reserve is that freedom camping remains unrestricted (as described above), there are restrictions on fires at the reserve, that all vehicles must remain on the access tracks only, and that dogs are allowed but they must be under control. There is some signage near the entrance to the reserve advising of this but it is not prominent and it is recognised that it needs updating.

The community feedback on this issue generally highlighted the increasing use of the reserve over the past ten years, and that DOC needs to actively manage the reserve to ensure that the values held by the community remain protected, despite the likely on-going increase of recreation use. A key issue is the extent to which regulation and enforcement is relied on to manage these issues, as discussed below.

### 13.1. Unapproved off-road vehicle use

DOC is aware of long-standing issues with off-road vehicles using what are intended to be off-limit areas for vehicles. This results in damage to pasture which subsequently reduces grazing opportunities for the grazing concessionaire, accelerated erosion with ruts and eroded embankments, has resulted in the reserve



Four-wheel driving damage reduce the pasture available for grazing

having a 'web' of informal vehicle tracks, it poses a health and safety risk for other reserve users, and generates a large amount of unnecessary noise that disrupts the quality of the visitor experience for other users. Whilst this issue occurs in other locations administered by DOC, the more remote location of the reserve appears to exacerbate the issue at Whakaipō Bay.

Previous responses to this issue have been hiring of a security firm in 2008 for several years to increase the security presence at the reserve, a press release being issued in 2014 to highlight this issue, and a number of trespass notices being administered to regular offenders who are caught. Utilising a security firm is not financially sustainable for DOC, and an issue is that DOC staff cannot be on the reserve the majority of the time given staff constraints and the number of reserves being managed within the district. Issuing of trespass notices is also not an effective response to an issue such as this given DOC experience elsewhere.

The consultation feedback on this issue was that it is a significant issue at the reserve, and that it is highly disruptive to the quality of the experience for other reserve users. There was a strong message that reserve users themselves want to be part of the management of this issue, but that to do this there needed to be clear signage that 'backed up' the ability of a member of the public to remind offenders that recreational vehicle use is prohibited on the reserve except on the main access track marked. This is a form of self-policing by reserve users which has the potential to improve the situation if supported by DOC with signage. Consultation responses also urged DOC to consider establishing 'community wardens' to act as enforcement presence on the reserve. This was not considered feasible due to some significant health, safety and training issues that arise.

DOC considers the responses to manage this issue effectively are twofold. Firstly, being installation of signage at a central location (and elsewhere within the reserve) which clearly states that off-road vehicles are not permitted on the reserve except on marked access ways. Secondly, that fencing and bollards (or placement of boulders) will be installed at strategic locations to prevent unauthorised vehicle use to parts of the reserve where there is no need for reserve users to have vehicle access. The popular off-road locations are clearly evident given tyre tracks, ruts and erosion at these locations. A plan to identify where bollards and fencing will be most effective is currently being formulated by DOC staff for implementation.

*Priority task: That signage is installed that clearly sets out that all vehicles must stay on the main access way from Māpara Road to the lakefront, along the lakefront, and from the lakefront to the Girl Guides Camp. See the section below on 'Infrastructure Works' for more on this.*

*Priority task: That additional fencing and bollards (or placement of boulders) be installed at strategic locations within the reserve to physically demarcate more strongly the main access way and to prevent vehicle access to parts of the reserve where aside from the grazing concessionaire there is no need for vehicle access by reserve users. See the section below on 'Infrastructure Works' for more on this.*

## 13.2. Fire / Parties and security

From 2006-2008 a high level of irresponsible behaviour occurring in the reserve such as noisy parties involving alcohol, sheep stealing, fires and off-road vehicle use was part of the drive towards the 2008 public consultation. These issues were brought under control by DOC by hiring a security company over the summer period to monitor the reserve, following

similar success with this method by Taupō District Council. In 2015 the company was employed again to watch over the reserve during the Christmas/New Year period.

These issues are now improved, but remain a problem as reported in the public consultation process and by DOC staff. Fires are not permitted on the reserve and this must continue to be clearly stated on signage as it is updated at the reserve. Some clarification is needed around the use of braziers and BBQ's as inclusive or exclusive to the fire ban, given that campers or day-users of the reserve may not consider these to be 'fires'.

These issues are not unique to the reserve, and DOC is tasked nationally with managing such issues to enable the enjoyment of the outdoors by the public. Furthermore, while the majority of visitors enjoy Whakaipō Bay responsibly and respectfully, major issues can be created by those who do not. The response to these issues from DOC is the continued periodic engagement of a security firm at peak times to manage this issue. Also that DOC will enhance signage on the reserve to more clearly communicate expectations of reserve users.

*Priority task: That signage be installed that clearly sets out the responsibilities of reserve users (see the section below on 'Infrastructure Works' for more on this).*



The Recreation Reserve is also a working farm

### 13.3. Management of Dogs

There have been reported instances of dog attacks on sheep belonging to the grazing concessionaire, and also of reserve users letting their dogs out of their vehicles at the top of the hill and allowing them to run down the hill to the lakefront in an uncontrolled manner. Dogs are allowed on the reserve, and simply with a restriction that those dogs are under control at all times. There is no requirement that dogs be on a lead.

There have been discussions between DOC and Taupō District Council (TDC) in respect of dog control matters. Public conservation land administered by DOC is considered to be a 'public place' under the Dog Control Act 1996, and TDC dog control officers are able to carry out dog control functions as elsewhere in the district. Those discussions are on-going but a proposal is that a proactive campaign (either specific to Whakaipō Bay or a district-wide campaign for public conservation land) with DOC and TDC working collaboratively on signage and enforcement activity.

DOC consider that updating the signage that sets out the restrictions on dogs at the reserve to make it clear what the expectations of reserve users are is the preferred way to manage this issue.

*Priority task: That signage be installed that clearly sets out the responsibilities of reserve users with dogs (see the section below on 'Infrastructure Works' for more on this).*

*Priority task: That DOC and TDC develop a campaign on dog control matters for public conservation land, with Whakaipō Bay being a focus of that work.*

### 13.4. Rubbish and Toilet Waste

The matter of littering and managing rubbish from reserve users is similar to the issues discussed above. DOC rangers are aware of instances of the gully behind the Girl Guide Camp being used as a dumping ground for rubbish as well as green waste, particularly of gorse and other problem weeds which then tend to become established. There is also anecdotal information presented during the community consultation about issues with rubbish being deliberately dumped on the reserve. The related issue is littering from reserve users leaving litter behind and toilet waste. All of these issues are not unique to Whakaipō Bay and are unfortunately issues nationally.

There are several elements to rubbish and waste issues. Firstly, that the reserve is a highly valued place where remoteness and the unspoilt nature of the environment is critical to the public's enjoyment. These values are undermined by litter and toilet waste being present, and invasive weed species being dominant in some parts of the reserve. Secondly, that many feedback responses linked issues of littering and toilet waste with freedom campers as the source of that rubbish. In this regard DOC rangers have not seen a particular issue with freedom campers leaving litter or waste that is more severe or more common than caused by day users of the reserve.

The two existing toilets spread along the lakefront means there is no excuse for any reserve user to leave toilet waste on the reserve; however this is not the case as heard through the

consultation feedback. There has also been the issue raised by neighbouring property Whakaipō 1D of reserve goers using the toilet facility within their private camp, and also leaving toilet waste in the vegetation.

There is a particular issue with dumping of rubbish and green waste in the gully behind the Girl Guide Camp. Positioning of bollards is proposed to prevent vehicle access to this gully, and therefore make illegal dumping in the gully much more difficult.

Nationally DOC operates a policy of 'pack in, pack out', and for this reason there are deliberately no rubbish bins provided within the reserve. Reserve users are being asked to take their rubbish with them and to dispose of it at home or in some other location with rubbish bins. This is a successful strategy as providing rubbish bins on reserves merely creates issues with overflowing bins and encouraging members of the public to leave their household waste, creates an unnecessary maintenance issue for DOC to empty bins, and creates a public expectation that bins will be provided everywhere on public conservation land. The 'pack in, pack out' and 'leave no trace' messaging need to be more clearly communicated to reserve users, but is considered the best strategy.

Management of weeds is specifically discussed in the section below on 'enhancing biodiversity'.

*Priority task: That signage be installed that clearly sets out the 'pack in, pack out'/'leave no trace' DOC philosophy for rubbish, and that under no circumstances is dumping of green or household waste permitted on the reserve (see the section below on 'Infrastructure Works' for more on this).*

*Priority Task: That bollards be installed to prevent vehicle access to the gully behind the Girl Guide Camp, as a means of preventing illegal dumping of rubbish and green waste into this gully (see the section below on 'Infrastructure Works' for more on this).*

## 14. Enhancing Biodiversity

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Whakaipō Bay Recreation Reserve is a highly modified environment relative to what would have been present several hundred years ago. The Māpara Stream gully represents a remnant stream margin ecosystem, but one that is modified and contains weed species such as wilding pines, blackberry and gorse. Most of the other native vegetation on the reserve is replanted vegetation over the past thirty years. A goal for this management plan is to continue the planting work that has occurred in the reserve, and to set some specific biodiversity goals for on-going enhancement.

### 14.1. Re-Planting of Whakaipō Bay Recreation Reserve

The first recorded annual planting day on the reserve was in 1988, with annual planting days every year since. DOC would like to acknowledge the efforts of community volunteers, and groups such as the Girl Guides, local Rotary groups, the Pateke Lions, and more recently Greening Taupō, who have all contributed substantially to the re-planting of the reserve. There is a strong partnership with the Girl Guides annually since the first planting with them hosting the sausage sizzle following the events. Greening Taupō have led the annual planting day for the past few years, with DOC in a supporting role.



Community planting day 2011

It is understood that many of the original plantings were along the lakefront, which is now an area that contains semi-mature native vegetation. From the lakefront the planting days have focused on the gullies that run from Māpara Valley into Whakaipō Bay through the reserve. Later foreshore plantings include exotic trees within cages (to keep stock away) for the purpose of creating shade and beautification of the reserve, particularly near the W2K shelter.

In 2008, a plan was drawn identifying four gullies to be retired from grazing, to be replaced with native trees. At the time this was part of a commitment to Waikato Regional Council's aim to reduce the nitrogen impact into Lake Taupō by placing limitations on the grazing licences, and planting trees to help reduce erosion. This is in line with the Lake Taupō Protection Project's aim to reduce nitrogen in the catchment by 20%. It was also part of the



2008 concept plan formulated for Whakaipō Bay described earlier in this management plan and involved community consultation. A key part of the proposals in 2008 was to preserve and maintain the identified values of the reserve. Since 2008 approximately 50% of the gully areas identified at that time for retirement from grazing have been successfully re-planted.

Funding for the initial plantings included a successful application to the Ministry for the Environment 'Kick the CO2 Habit' fund, funding from the two local Rotary groups, and a fencing subsidy from the Waikato Regional Council. 'Living Legends' was a community conservation project that ran from 2011-13 to celebrate and leave a legacy of New Zealand's hosting of the Rugby World Cup in 2011. Whakaipō Bay was a successful applicant and 11,000 trees were planted in one of the gullies, with the site being dedicated to a King Country rugby legend Sir Colin Meads. The project was a partnership between Project Crimson, The Tindall Foundation, Meridian and DOC, with support from Ocean and Real NZ Festival. Following the conclusion of



Community planting day 2014

the Living Legends Project, Whakaipō Bay was one of 6 out of 17 Living Legends funded sites chosen to have funding continued at a lower rate via the Tindall Foundation, receiving \$15,000 in total over three years. Whakaipō was chosen largely for 'the strength of community participation'.

The Living Legend plantings focused on the replanting of gullies within the reserve, and were deliberately planned to leave 'pathways' for recreational tracks. Once the recent plantings become more established these tracks will become walkways through the reserve under a canopy of regenerating native forest. These tracks also lead from the more heavily used lakefront part of the reserve into the interior of the reserve which currently is under-utilised. As well as providing attractive walking tracks for the community, this will also serve to better spread the recreation use around the reserve.

The [Whakaipō Bay Management Plan Map](#) attached to this document displays the planted areas over the past thirty years, and outlines what are considered to be the priority areas for the next ten to 20 years. These areas have been identified to link existing planted areas; to extend existing planted areas further up gullies towards Māpara Road; and to re-plant elevated areas between gullies to begin linking the replanted gullies together. Re-planting either side of the W2K track through the reserve is a particular focus to beautify this heavily used part of the reserve, as is re-planting on either side of the access way near the entrance

to the reserve. Related to this is the gradual 'roll back' of the area of the reserve managed under the grazing concession. Stock will be removed from re-planted areas in conjunction with the concession holder, and in 2020 when the concession is considered for renewal a more comprehensive review of the extent of the concession will be undertaken. At that time, consideration will be given to re-planting the entire upper portion of the reserve.

*Priority task: That a detailed planting plan be formulated in conjunction with Greening Taupō to identify the priority areas for re-planting in the next decade.*

*Priority task: That the existing grazing concession be amended to reflect that the re-planted areas on the reserve can no longer be grazed. There also needs to be on-going adjustment of the land covered by the grazing concession in a timely manner in the future to reflect on-going gully re-planting within the reserve.*

## 14.2. Biodiversity Enhancement Funding

DOC's approach to managing public conservation land now has a significant focus on forming partnerships with community groups, corporate sponsors, and philanthropic individuals, with the aim of launching collaborative projects to achieve conservation outcomes. Historically DOC staff have sought funding from various funding providers such as those described in the previous section. This does consume a large amount of DOC staff time, with uncertain outcomes and mixed results. This includes internal funding opportunities within DOC, such as the Natural History Management System (NHMS), of which Whakaipō Bay is identified as a 'local treasure'. Securing funding such as this requires preparatory work within DOC on both criteria and how allocation of funds occurs.

For the re-planting priorities identified above, DOC will continue to look for funded partnerships and will work collaboratively with Greening Taupō and other groups to continue the annual planting days and to undertake other planting as funding and personnel allow. Land preparation prior to re-planting also has a 'lead in' time with discussions to be had with the grazing concessionaire and weed control to be undertaken for the areas to be re-planted starting a year before the actual planting occurs. This includes forward business planning to secure funding from Waikato Regional Council in the form of fencing subsidies. Producing the revised 2016 planting plan will assist in funding applications and this forward planning.

There has also been a suggestion during community consultation to place a voluntary freedom camping fee to raise money for the biodiversity on-site projects. This will be investigated further in conjunction with the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association as typically their members do look to contribute to enhancing the locations where they camp. DOC cannot charge a fee for freedom camping however without establishing an actual DOC camping group operation which does attract fees from campers.

*Priority task: That DOC supports Greening Taupō in running the annual planting day, and that DOC will continue to source external funding from Waikato Regional Council regarding fencing/re-planting subsidies and others, and to establish partnerships with any groups willing to provide funding or some other assistance to achieve re-planting of the reserve.*

### 14.3. Weeding of Re-Planted Areas

Weeding is more difficult to involve community groups with as it is less popular with the public than planting, but nevertheless is just as critical to the success of re-planted areas. DOC staff also face time constraints and are not able to complete all of the weeding around re-planted areas. Weeding also includes removal of weed species from the reserve such as wilding pines, gorse, ragwort, thistles and other invasive weed species. The grazing concession is an effective weed control measure within the portions of the reserve grazed by not allowing those species to become established.



Gorse and other weeds encroaching on the beach

There are several initiatives to achieve better outcomes in terms of weeding. Royal Forest and Bird Society do undertake 'working bees' four times per year in the reserve already which assist greatly with weed management. DOC has developed a Community Weedbusting Tool Kit. The establishment of 'Weedbusting' groups in conjunction with community groups such as Greening Taupō is a key part of this. A 'Friends of Whakaipō Bay' group could be established consisting of enthusiastic local people who want to become more involved with maintaining the reserve. DOC would look to have a facilitating role rather than running such a group.

Priority areas have been identified for managing weeds based on feedback received during the community consultation and by DOC staff. The top priority identified was to remove gorse and other weeds from the lakefront planting, particularly to 'widen' the beach. When lake water levels are high the gravel beach between the water and the vegetation becomes very thin and prevents recreational use of the lakefront to some extent. However erosion issues would need to be considered before the removal of the gorse and blackberry on the foreshore, particularly at the eastern end of the bay, where the prevailing south westerly wind has the most effect. Replacement plant species would also need to be considered due to the difficulties of establishing growth in such friable, pumice rich soils.

Other priorities identified are releasing weeds from around recent gully plantings; control of wilding pines within the Māpara Stream gully and other gullies; weed control of areas in the reserve where gorse, blackberry and other invasive weeds have become the dominant plant species and weed control within the Māpara stream gully more generally given it is such an important spawning stream. The DOC Fishery team manage vegetation alongside the Māpara stream as necessary to allow for fish passage and successful spawning runs. It is prohibited to fish in the stream itself, therefore it is considered unfavourable to promote the restoration of the entire gully (including the streamside track) in fear of making it easier for

poachers to access the stream. Local hapū would like to see the stream restored to reflect its cultural significance.

*Priority task: That DOC assists Greening Taupō to connect with other individuals and community groups to undertake on-going planting and weeding on the reserve based on a planting and weeding plan.*

#### 14.4. Neighbouring Properties

DOC will continue to collaborate with neighbouring landowners where conservation outcomes can be achieved by doing so. Over the years several nearby property owners have made approaches to DOC regarding various projects. To maintain privacy these are not detailed here, but DOC will continue to explore these opportunities where there are conservation benefits to doing so.

#### 14.5. Planting of Exotic Species

Several proposals have been tabled with DOC during the community consultation exercise and in previous years. Bike Taupō have promoted the concept of planting exotic trees on the upper slopes of the north-western corner of the reserve in conjunction with the downhill mountain bike proposal described earlier in this management plan. This land is steep and difficult for the public to access, is grazed but has no recreation use. The concept is to plant exotic species that are fast growing and capable of a large size when mature to provide shade, enhance slope stability, and to enhance the appearance of that part of the reserve. This could be in the form of an arboretum provided that a sufficient diversity of species was planted. There is also an opportunity for the Douglas Fir Block to be turned into an arboretum with some thinning of some of the trees, and some re-planting with a higher diversity of the species.

Similarly near the lakefront, some of the existing exotic trees near the W2K shelter have a limited life and succession planting will be needed to provide shade and an attractive parkland appearance. There were several planted in 2008 that have cages around them, but are reported to be growing slowly. This planting of exotic shade trees could also be extended all of the way along the lakefront part of the reserve to provide shade for picnic areas given there are some large grassed areas with sparse planting currently.

*Priority task: None*

## 15. Infrastructure Works

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In response to the discussion in the previous sections of the management plan and the community consultation, a programme of infrastructure works has been compiled and a Management Plan Map of the reserve has been put together to reflect future opportunities ([see figure 5 Whakaipō Bay Management Plan Map on back page](#)). The purpose of these works is to support achieving the objectives of the management plan. DOC has an internal funding system for capital works that involves making funding applications to the national DOC office for consideration. The applications for capital works will be supported in part by this management plan, as it serves to demonstrate that community consultation has occurred, and provides context to how the capital works projects will contribute to the effective management of the reserve.

In many instances the funding may take several years to secure as funding applications for capital works within DOC is an annual process. The aim will be that simple low cost projects described below will take place in the near future (as they can be funded through operational funding); however, all other projects will be completed over a longer time period.

*Priority task: That the DOC Taupō office makes funding applications for capital works to DOC national office, and external funding applications, for the following projects.*

### 15.1. Access track upgrade

The access road needs to be graded and metalled to resolve dust and erosion issues, improving the quality of the access. A related aim is to provide a single access way through the reserve from Māpara Road to the lakefront and then along the lakefront, rather than the myriad of informal vehicle tracks and shortcuts that currently exist.

There is a clear desire from the community to keep the 'rustic/rural' feel of the access way and not improve the access way to an extent that it is a sealed road that encourages speed. The upgrade to the access way could occur in several stages. For example, the track could be upgraded in three stages, being from the Māpara Road entrance to the central hub location (the hub is described below), from the central hub to the lakefront, and along the lakefront.

The existing cattle stop at the Māpara Road entrance also needs to be replaced, and will be done as part of the wider access way upgrade.

Estimated cost: Based on previous discussions with contractors, approximately \$10,000 to grade and metal the access track from Māpara Road to the central hub, and \$30,000 to upgrade and metal the entirety of the track.

Proposed timeline: To be completed within three years (2016-2018).

## 15.2. Bollards and fencing

Bollards and fencing (or placement of boulders) are needed alongside the upgraded access track and at selected locations elsewhere, as part of the above access track upgrade. This will discourage off-road vehicle use in parts of the reserve where there is no need for vehicles to access and as a means of ensuring that all vehicles will use the single upgraded access. It will also eliminate the various shortcuts and informal vehicle tracks that have formed over the years. The priority areas for this are from the Māpara Road entranceway to the central hub area, down the hill on the access section below the hub area and at selected locations where vehicle ruts and vehicle-related erosion is obvious to prevent unauthorised off-road vehicle use (such as preventing access to the gully behind the Girl Guides Camp).

Estimated cost: Unknown, likely to be between \$10,000 and \$20,000.

Proposed timeline: Priority locations to be completed by the 2016/2017 summer, with other locations within ten years (2016-2025).

## 15.3. Car Parking Areas

A new car park area is proposed at an area known as the central hub. This is a plateau area part way down the access track from Māpara Road with panoramic views of Whakaipō Bay and beyond. This will also be the location for a centralised location for signage for the reserve (see below for more on these proposals). The central hub will act as a 'park headquarters' and will serve to reduce congestion on the western end of the lakefront near the W2K shelter which has become the de facto hub for the reserve, and spread the distribution of recreational use through the reserve more effectively. All visitors to the reserve will pass through the central hub area, walking and mountain biking tracks could also be routed from the central hub to link with other existing tracks within the reserve. The costs for forming the central hub are not high, being some minor re-contouring to create a parking area, some bollards (or placement of boulders) and fencing to demarcate the car parking area and to create a sense of arrival, and the signage described below. A more detailed layout for the proposed central hub will be formulated as part of DOC's funding application process.

No other car parking areas are proposed. The existing informal car parking area at the northern end of the Douglas Fir Block will be monitored in terms the extent of use and capacity, as it is relatively small. If demand in this location increases substantially due to increased recreational use of the Douglas fir tree block, then this parking area will be expanded in future.

Estimated cost: Unknown, likely to be in the vicinity of \$10,000 to \$20,000 for the various elements described above.

Proposed timeline: To be completed within three years (2016-2018).

#### **15.4. Picnic areas**

There are various locations for possible picnic areas to be developed consisting of a table and planting of shade trees. Rubbish bins will not be provided in accordance with the 'pack in, pack out' philosophy of DOC. Locations could be at the eastern end of the lakefront to encourage more use of this area to relieve congestion pressure at the western end.

Estimated cost: Unknown, likely to be less than \$10,000 for each picnic area.

Proposed timeline: To be completed within three years (2016-2018).

#### **15.5. Eastern Block**

DOC will enable the accessing of the Eastern Block by horse riders by facilitating discussions between the grazing concessionaire and horse rider representatives. This will include implementing a locked padlock at the existing Māpara Road entrance gate, minor works may be necessary at the entranceway and the clearance of the logging track behind the Girl Guides Camp to provide access to the main reserve. Any other horse-related facilities on the Eastern Block will need to be funded by the horse riders themselves with DOC being in a facilitation role.

Estimated cost: Costs to be borne by horse riders themselves.

Proposed timeline: To be completed by the 2016/2017 summer.

#### **15.6. Douglas Fir Block**

DOC will investigate the possibility of thinning the existing exotic trees within the block to allow for the growth of large established trees, which would in turn create an attractive area for recreation. As above, the capacity of the existing informal car parking area at the northern end will be monitored to ascertain if any future upgrading to increase capacity is required.

Estimated cost: None.

Proposed timeline: Dependent on community group uptake.

#### **15.7. Track alterations**

DOC does not propose a wide-spread programme of track building across the reserve, given on-going maintenance costs associated with a more extensive track network. DOC will support any community group who wishes to construct and maintain tracks through the reserve, and will act in a facilitation role to enable this to happen. This is provided that any such tracks are congruent with the established values for the reserve and do not impact negatively on other reserve users.

The existing Tāhunatara Point Track is located on private land that is currently leased from the Whakaipō 1D Trust with the lease expiring in 2021. DOC will in due course enter into discussions with the Trust regarding whether this lease is renewed. Part of this discussion will include the future of the Tāhunatara Point Track.

The existing informal cross-reserve track that runs from the W2K track to the location of the future central hub area will perform an increasingly important role connecting these two hubs. No particular works are required other than further development of stiles over existing fence lines to facilitate mountain bikers using this track. Some limited track construction projects as described above are proposed:

#### **Horse riding trails:**

- Clearance of the old logging track behind the Girl Guide camp to provide access between the Eastern Block and the main part of the reserve.

#### **Shared use bike/walking tracks:**

- The start/finish of the W2K track is steep and Bike Taupō would like to re-align this small part of the track with 'switch backs' to reduce the steepness of the track near the bike shelter.
- A loop track through the Douglas Fir Block starting and finishing at the informal car parking area at the northern end of the block. To be undertaken by community groups facilitated by DOC.
- Informal tracks will be allowed through the re-planted gullies.

Estimated cost: None.

Proposed timeline: Dependent on community group uptake.

## **15.8. Planting**

The focus of planting efforts are the planting of exotic shade trees at picnic spots and more generally near the lakefront to provide shade for parked vehicle and reserve users, and the continuation of re-planting the gullies. Greening Taupō now lead the annual planting day with DOC in a supporting role, and it is hoped that this will continue. Planting outside of the annual planting day will also be led by community groups with DOC in a facilitation role in terms of technical support and maintaining planted areas.

Planting either side of the W2K track is proposed as a future re-planting area to beautify this high use part of the reserve.

Estimated cost: None, with DOC acting as a facilitator with community groups and external funders sourcing the funding for the planting.

Proposed timeline: On-going planting of the reserve.



## 15.9. Signage

An enhanced set of signage on the reserve is critical to the success of many of the management responses identified in this management plan. As described in this management plan, the focus is on clearly stating the obligations and responsibilities of reserve users to other reserve users and the reserve itself, and to link behaviour with the values identified for the reserve. The central hub will act as the primary location for signage given that all reserve users who arrive by vehicle have to pass through this point. The central hub signage will welcome visitors to the reserve, provide information on activities, be a location for interpretation signage about the history of Whakaipō Bay, and to encourage responsible use of the reserve. A reserve map will be positioned here to direct reserve users to the various facilities and locations within the reserve. By centralising signage at a single location it also avoids a proliferation of signage throughout the reserve.



The signage policy for DOC nationally is to use the 'Leave no trace' messaging. Leave No Trace New Zealand is an educational non-profit organisation dedicated to the responsible enjoyment and active stewardship of the outdoors by all people, worldwide.

In particular the signage will clearly state that off-road use of vehicles in the reserve is prohibited; that no fires are permitted; that dogs need to be kept under control at all times; that all rubbish must be taken with the reserve user in accordance with the 'pack in, pack out' philosophy; and that care needs to be taken around recently planted areas to protect the plants.

There will also be some directional signage at key locations within the reserve;

- a 'no camping beyond this point' sign near the gate, part-way along the lakefront to discourage freedom camping at the western end of the lakefront;
- a sign at the eastern end of the lakefront advising reserve users of the boundary of the reserve and that beyond that point is private land (Whakaipō 1D Trust), and;
- whilst there is public access along the Tāhunatara Point Track that the property needs to be respected;
- a community signage board will also be installed to alert reserve users to current community projects being undertaken on the reserve and to advertise opportunities to get involved.

The detailed proposals for location and contents of signage will be designed by the DOC Publishing Team in conjunction with Taupō Operations Team and will include maps, images, text (cultural/historic stories), recreation symbols and safety/ prohibition symbols. The signage will provide 0800 DOCHOT details so visitors know how to report problems at the reserve. The reporting of problems enables DOC to take action in response, but also build a complaints record to monitor issues and trends. It is considered important to instil a sense of

ownership by members of the public to enjoy but also to take care of 'our place'. The focus of the proposed signage will be on positive messaging rather than an emphasis on prohibition.

Estimated cost: Unknown, likely to be \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Proposed timeline: To be completed within three years (2016-2018).

## 16. Priority Tasks

The list of priority tasks in the table below reflects the discussion of the individual topics above, and the particular responses proposed for each of those topic. A brief description is provided for each task; an organisation to lead implementation has been nominated, and a target completion date. The aim of setting out the priority tasks in this way is to provide an implementation checklist over the next ten years to measure progress with the implementation of this management plan.

Priority Tasks	Implementation Lead by	Target Completion Date
<p>That a 'no camping past this point' sign be installed on the gate leading to the western end of the lakefront where the W2K track start/finish is located, to resolve congestion in this location.</p> <p><a href="#">Camping: section 12</a></p>	Department of Conservation	<p>To be completed during summer of 2015/2016 as an immediate task.</p> <p>[Completed December 2015]</p>
<p>That a monitoring programme be formulated and implemented during the 2015/2016 summer to record numbers of freedom campers, the proportion of self-contained vehicles versus non self-contained, and recording of complaints/issues with freedom campers.</p> <p><a href="#">Camping: section 12</a></p>	Department of Conservation	<p>To be completed during summer of 2015/2016 as an immediate task.</p> <p>[Completed May 2016]</p>
<p>That a detailed gully re-planting and weeding plan be formulated in conjunction with Greening Taupō to identify the priority areas for work in the next decade.</p> <p><a href="#">Biodiversity: section 14</a></p>	Department of Conservation / Greening Taupō	To be completed within one year (2016)
<p>DOC will facilitate further discussions with horse riders and the grazing concessionaire to identify and resolve any logistical issues with the proposal. There will be no cost for DOC with horse riders funding the costs associated with any upgrade required to the Māpara Road entrance or other</p>	Department of Conservation / horse riders	To be completed within one year (2016)

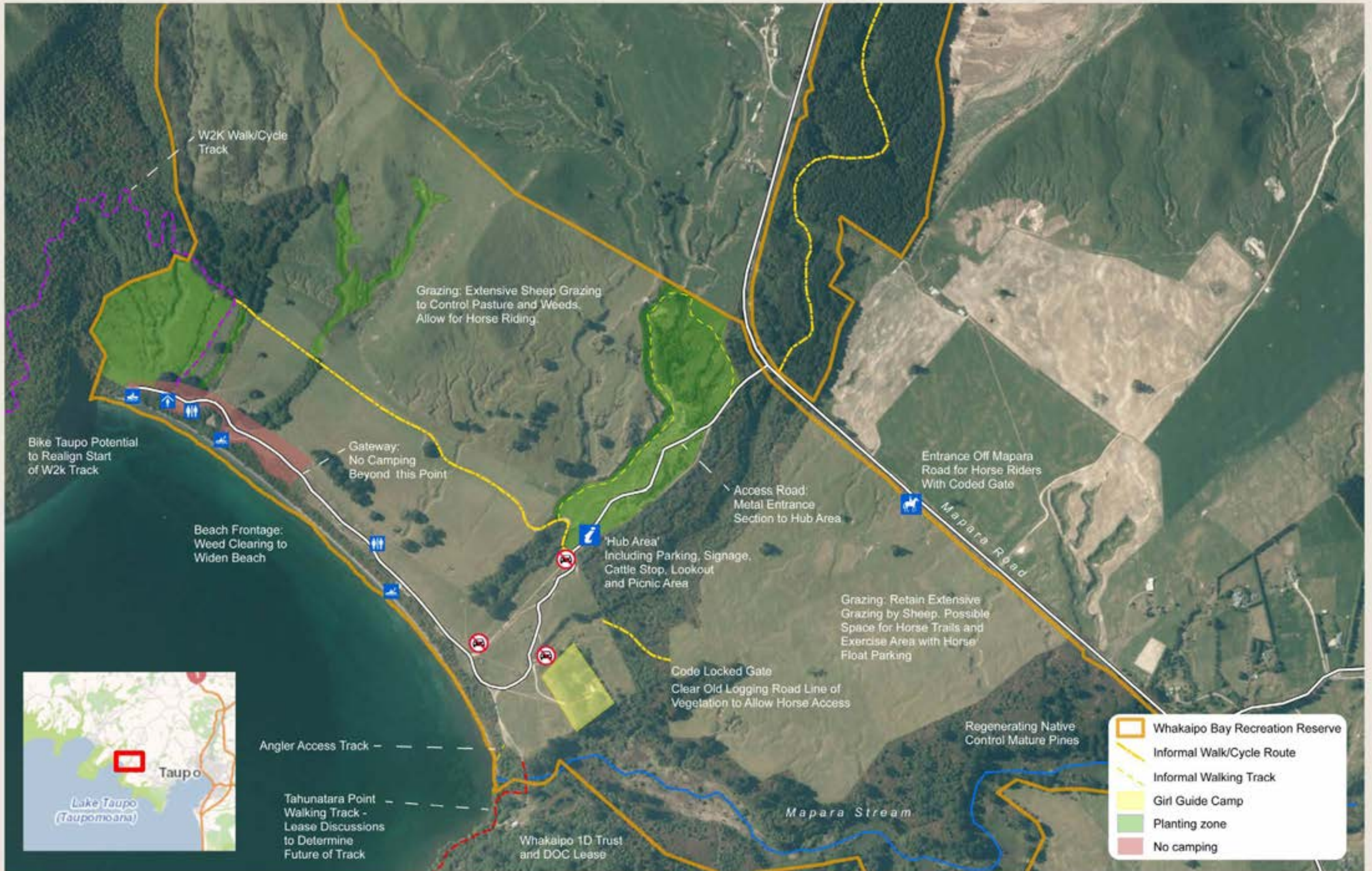
costs.  <a href="#">Horse riding: section 11</a>		
That DOC fosters on-going relationships with local hapū about the management of Whakaipō Bay Recreation Reserve.  <a href="#">Cultural recognition: section 10</a>	Department of Conservation / hapū	To be commenced within one year (2016) and will be on-going
That DOC fosters on-going relationship with Whakaipō 1D Trust about the management of Whakaipō Bay Recreation Reserve and links with the Trust's land.  <a href="#">Cultural recognition: section 10</a>	Department of Conservation / Whakaipō 1D Trust	To be commenced within one year (2016) and will be on-going
That DOC and local hapū collectively seek to identify opportunities to reflect the cultural values and aspirations held for the reserve, including the restoration of the Māpara stream.  <a href="#">Cultural recognition: section 10</a>	Department of Conservation / hapū	To be commenced within one year (2016) and will be on-going.
That the existing grazing concession be amended to reflect that the re-planted areas on the reserve can no longer be grazed. There also needs to be on-going adjustment of the land covered by the grazing concession in a timely manner in the future to reflect on-going gully re-planting within the reserve.  <a href="#">Biodiversity: section 14</a>	Department of Conservation	To be completed within one year (2016) and will be on-going.
That DOC supports Greening Taupō in running the annual planting day, and that DOC will continue to source external funding from Waikato Regional Council regarding fencing/re-planting subsidies and others, and to establish partnerships with any groups willing to provide funding or some other assistance to achieve re-planting of the reserve.  <a href="#">Biodiversity: section 14</a>	Department of Conservation / Greening Taupō	To be commenced within one year (2016) and will be on-going
That DOC assists Greening Taupō to connect with		

<p>other individuals and community groups to undertake on-going planting and weeding on the reserve based on a planting and weeding plan.</p> <p><a href="#">Biodiversity: section 14</a></p>	<p>Department of Conservation / Greening Taupō</p>	<p>To be commenced within one year (2016) and will be on-going</p>
<p>That the DOC Taupō office makes funding applications for capital works to DOC national office (an IBC for capital works) and external funding applications, for the 'infrastructure works' projects detailed in this management plan.</p> <p><a href="#">Infrastructure works: section 15</a></p>	<p>Department of Conservation</p>	<p>To be completed within one year (2016)</p>
<p>That DOC commences the gazettal process in 2016 for gazetting restrictions on freedom camping at Whakaipō Bay Recreation Reserve (being restrictions on self-contained vehicles, restrictions on the number of nights that freedom campers are allowed to remain on the reserve and subject to monitoring outcomes on location).</p> <p><a href="#">Camping: section 12</a></p>	<p>Department of Conservation</p>	<p>To be completed within one year (2016)</p>
<p>That signage be installed that clearly sets out the responsibilities of freedom campers during their stay on the reserve.</p> <p><a href="#">Camping: section 12</a></p>	<p>Department of Conservation</p>	<p>To be completed within two years (2016-2017)</p>
<p>That signage is installed that clearly sets out that all vehicles must stay on the main access way from Māpara Road to the lakefront, along the lakefront, and from the lakefront to the Girl Guides Camp.</p> <p><a href="#">Behaviour and safety: section 13</a></p>	<p>Department of Conservation</p>	<p>To be completed within two years (2016-2017)</p>
<p>That the access way be upgraded with a gravelled surface and some re-contouring work to enhance access, and bollards or placement of boulders at key locations to prevent vehicles leaving the access way.</p> <p><a href="#">Infrastructure works: section 15</a></p>	<p>Department of Conservation</p>	<p>To be completed within three years (2016-2018)</p>

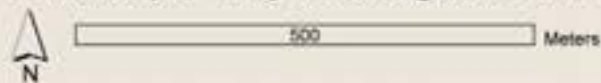
<p>That signage be installed that clearly sets out the responsibilities of reserve users, in terms of behaviour issues, management of dogs by owners, the 'pack in, pack out' philosophy for rubbish, and that under no circumstances is dumping of green or household waste permitted on the reserve. Also that DOC will include geo caching symbols on reserve signage as part of the signage upgrade programme.</p> <p><a href="#">Behaviour and safety: section 13</a></p>	<p>Department of Conservation</p>	<p>To be completed within three years (2016-2018)</p>
<p>That bollards (or placement of boulders) are installed to prevent vehicle access to the gully behind the Girl Guide Camp, as a means of preventing illegal dumping of rubbish and green waste into this gully.</p> <p><a href="#">Behaviour and safety: section 13</a></p>	<p>Department of Conservation</p>	<p>To be completed within three years (2016-2018)</p>
<p>That additional fencing be installed at strategic locations within the reserve to physically demarcate more strongly the main access way and to prevent vehicle access to parts of the reserve where aside from the grazing concessionaire there is no need for vehicle access by reserve users.</p> <p><a href="#">Behaviour and safety: section 13</a></p>	<p>Department of Conservation</p>	<p>To be completed within three years (2016-2018)</p>
<p>That DOC and Taupō District Council develop a campaign on dog control matters for public conservation land, with Whakaipō Bay being a focus of that work.</p> <p><a href="#">Behaviour and safety: section 13</a></p>	<p>Department of Conservation</p>	<p>To be completed within three years (2016-2018)</p>
<p>That DOC undertakes a feasibility study for a DOC managed campsite including a demand analysis, an economic benefit analysis, structural requirements and costs.</p> <p><a href="#">Camping: section 12</a></p>	<p>Department of Conservation</p>	<p>To be completed within three years (2016-2018)</p>
<p>That DOC review the option to change the destination category to "Gateway", to allow for better</p>	<p>Department of Conservation</p>	<p>To be completed within three years</p>

options to bid for capital funding. <a href="#">Camping: section 12</a>		(2016-2018)
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Figure 5 (overleaf) Whakaipō Bay Management Plan Map



### Whakaipo Bay Management Plan



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Basemap - LINZ Topo50 / 50  
DOC, Geospatial Services

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