



**South Waikato District Council
Rural Reserves Management Plan
2020**

**Adopted by the South Waikato District Council
(04/03/2021)**

Management of South Waikato District Council Reserves

Reserves within the District are mainly classified as either Recreation Reserves or Local Purpose Reserves, along with one reserve classified as an Historic Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977.

Reserves include neighbourhood and civic parks, rural or scenic reserves, esplanade reserves and sportsgrounds.

Council adopts the Reserve Act 1977 objectives as its guiding principles in the management of its reserves.

The objectives of the Reserves Act 1977 are:

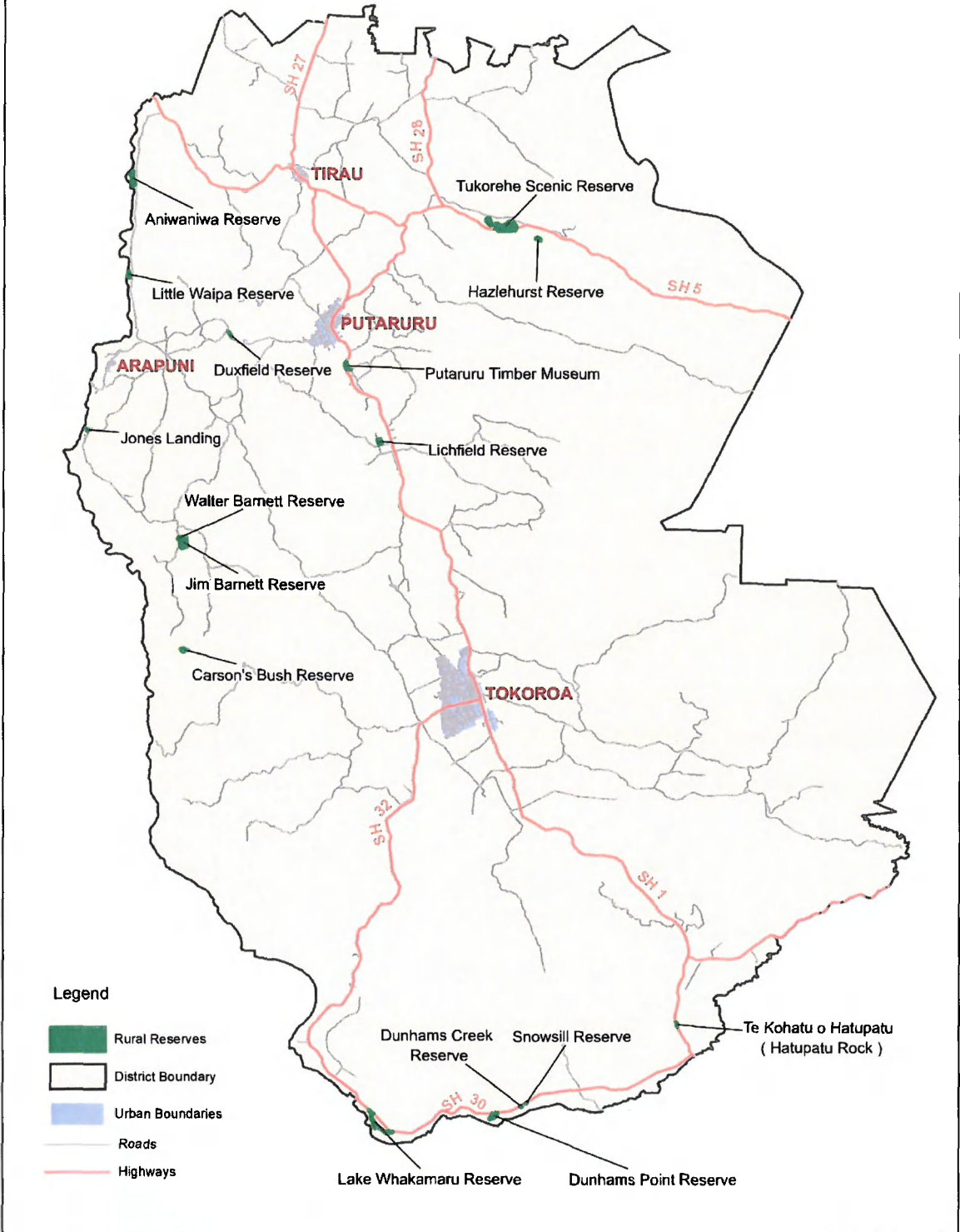
- Emphasise retention of open space for outdoor recreation
- Maximise freedom of access to reserves for all people, rather than just a few
- Encourage multiple use of reserve land and facilities when feasible and appropriate
- Facilitate greater involvement of the public in reserves administration and decision-making

This document contains the individual reserve management plans for the District's rural reserves.

Rural Reserves

Table of Contents	Page Number
Aniwaniwa Reserve	5
Carsons Bush	10
Dunham's Creek Reserve	12
Dunham's Point Reserve	14
Duxfield Reserve	17
Jim Barnett Reserve	20
Jones Landing	23
Lake Whakamaru Reserve	26
Lichfield Reserve	29
Little Waipa Reserve	32
Putāruru Timber Museum	35
Snowsill Reserve	37
State Highway 5 Scenic Reserve (Hazlehurst Bush)	39
Te Kohatu o Hatupatu ("Hatupatu Rock" site)	41
Tukorehe Scenic Reserve (Fitzgerald Glade)	45
Walter Barnett Reserve	48

South Waikato District Council Reserves Rural 2020



Aniwaniwa Reserve

Location: The Aniwaniwa Reserve is located on Horahora Road on the eastern banks of Lake Karapiro immediately north of the Pokaiwhenua Stream.

Access: Access is from Horahora road which is approximately 5 km south of State Highway 1.

Portfolio Designation: Rural reserve

Map:



Legal Description:

Section/Lot:	Area (ha):	Classification under Reserves Act 1977 as referenced in the NZ Gazette:
Lot 9 DP 316754	1.1232	Recreation Reserve
Section 3 SO 326117	0.2100	N/A

Section 4 SO 326117	8.0000	N/A
---------------------	--------	-----

District Plan Zone: Rural

Natural and Physical Features: The Reserve is situated on a flat to easy rolling grassed river terrace approximately 6m elevation above Lake Karapiro. The embankments to the lake, wetlands and stream are steep with an average 1:1 slope and vegetated with a mix of native and exotic species. Significant wetlands surround the site.

Historical /Investment Background: Aniwaniwa Reserve was formerly known as Pokaiwhenua Reserve due to its location adjacent to the Pokaiwhenua Stream. The name change occurred in 1976 in recognition of the name Aniwaniwa appearing on old maps of the area. Aniwaniwa was a crossing place of the Waikato River and was used frequently by Maori and European settlers. The river was originally spanned by a single tree; subsequently a bridge was erected in 1880. The reserve later became the site of the Horahora Village and the now submerged Power Station lies immediately offshore from the reserve. The Horahora Power Station was constructed and operated by the Waihi Gold Company in 1913 and was the first hydroelectric power station in New Zealand. The station's capacity was 6,400 kw and this was subsequently increased after government purchase in 1919. Horahora remained operational until it was submerged on the 4th of April 1947, with the flooding of Lake Karapiro. Today only a large concrete reservoir and scattered pieces of turbines reflect this history.

Lot 9 (Area 'A' on map) was vested in Council under the Resource Management Act 1991 as recreation reserve on the 2003 subdivision of land and is classified as a recreation reserve under the Reserves Act 1977. This parcel provides access to Section 4, SO 326117 (Area 'B' on map). The developer of the properties on either side of the access, at 394 and 398 Horahora Road developed entrances to these respective properties from Lot 9, rather than from the legal access road on Horahora Road as per the original resource consent. Council has retrospectively granted the present owners right of access to enter and exit onto reserve land but noting that the right of access does not grant them legal rights to the reserve.

Section 4 SO 326117 is still held by the Crown as Crown land subject to the Land Act 1948 subject to a hydro lake operating easement that grants the right to store water and right to install and operate hydro- electricity works.

Between 1963 and 1980 eight parcels of Crown land held for water power development under the Public Works Act were specifically identified on the shores of hydro lakes Karapiro, Arapuni, Whakamaru and Maraetai. Ready access and public demand resulted in these parcels, by notice in the NZ Gazette, being authorised for recreation purposes as a secondary use, subject to the Reserves Act. The control and management of each parcel was vested in the surrounding local authority.

The authorisation for recreation purposes as a secondary use for Aniwaniwa Reserve was contained in the NZ Gazette in 1975.

In 1995 with the demise of NZ Electricity Department and the establishment of State-owned enterprise Electricity Corporation of New Zealand (later Mighty River Power Limited, now Mercury NZ Ltd and others) the Crown requested that the local authority surrounding each of the secondary use reserves agree to that secondary use being uplifted. That was to enable all land comprising lake bed and margins to be declared Crown land under the Land Act – a preliminary step to such land being made subject to

an operating easement appurtenant to the fee simple titles to the dams and power stations.

The secondary use authorisation was revoked by NZ Gazette 1995 page 4795. The Crown (then represented by the Department of Survey and Land Information, now Land Information New Zealand or LINZ) gave an undertaking that following registration of the operating easement, the former secondary use parcels would be vested as recreation reserves in the District Councils.

When Waikato River operating easements were surveyed each parcel to be subsequently reserved and vested was separately defined. The operating easements were registered in January 2011 but to date no subsequent reservation and vesting of the eight parcels have taken place. This includes Section 3 SO 326117, 'Aniwaniwa Island' (Area 'C' on map) and Section 4 SO 4 326117.

Responsibility for that action rests with the Department of Conservation.

Recent correspondence to Council from the Department of Conservation indicated that initial consultation with Iwi which DOC carried out in 2015 and 2016 in respect of vesting the reserves in Councils needed to be revisited, since for some sites, the Iwi requested to be involved more closely with reserve management.

They advised that in the interim there is sufficient Iwi feedback to complete the first part of the process, that is, the setting apart as reserve and classification for recreation purposes, and that a further step could be a control and manage appointment to Councils (not a vesting).

Under the current SWDC District Plan 'Aniwaniwa Reserve' refers to only part of Section 4 SO 326117, with perimeters shown by green dash lines:



As stated, it is LINZ's intention for Section 4 SO 326117 to be ultimately vested to Council in its entirety, along with Section 3, "Aniwaniwa Island".

Parts of Sections 3 and 4 are designated as Significant Natural Areas within the District plan, shown in yellow:



There are no classified heritage sites located within the Reserve. However, this site has historical significance to both Maori and European settlers being an important crossing point of the Waikato River. It is also the location for New Zealand's first hydroelectric power station.

Purpose, Use and User Groups: The purpose of the Reserve is to provide a large open space for informal passive and active recreational use for the public and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside. Currently parts of the reserve is grazed under lease and availability for public use is limited.

Leasee: Two leases are currently held with LINZ by adjoining landowners for maintaining the reserve.

Reserve Management and Maintenance: The reserve is administered by Land Information New Zealand (LINZ). Maintenance of the reserve not held under lease, shown in map below, is managed by the South Waikato District Council:



Turf is to be cut to 75mm height with 6 cuts per year.

Future development options:

- Council to continue to pursue its right to title to Aniwaniwa reserve as recreation reserve, subject to the Reserves Act 1977;

- In 2008 a Landscape Concept Plan was developed for public consultation in 2009 in preparation for the Reserves Management Plan 2010. In general, local landowners indicated support for developing the reserve with walkways and planting and informational signage but raised concerns with the proposed boat ramp, parking, freedom camping and toilets.

To date Council has not developed this reserve, preferring to concentrate on upgrading the toilets, bins and providing additional shower facilities at the Little Waipa reserve.

Council has in recent years undertaken fencing works to designate correct boundary lines.

Waikato River Trail has established a carpark on Mercury NZ land adjacent to the reserve, and a toilet has been installed next to the trail in this area.

Waikato River Trail is currently exploring options to develop a trail through the reserve to head northwards.

It is proposed that once the land has been vested in the South Waikato District Council that further consultation should be made with Iwi and locals to determine the desirability, need and extent of any proposed development, leading to a revised concept plan being developed.

Council's intention is to:

- Install metalled walkways;
- Remove Privet and other invasive pest plants and replant with New Zealand Native species suitable for the soil conditions and climate;
- Provide informational signage, including historical aspects around the former Horahora Village site, significance and historical use of the area by Māori and the reserve's Significant Natural Area designation;
- Provide Park furniture.

Carson's Bush

Location: The reserve is located on private property and can be seen from a distance from the end of Waotu South Road.

Access: The reserve is land locked and not accessible to the public.

Portfolio Designation: Rural reserve

Map:



Legal Description:

Section/Lot:	Area (ha):	Classification under Reserves Act 1977 as referenced in the NZ Gazette:
Lot 1 DPS 24149	3.3630	N/A

District Plan Zone: Rural

Natural and Physical Features: Carson's Bush is an area of remnant cut-over forest containing such species as *Beilschmiedia tawa* (Tawa), *Laurelia novae-zelandiae* (Pukatea) and *Knightia excelsa* (Rewarewa). As such it provides some concept to the original native cover of the area.

Historical /Investment Background: The reserve land was gifted to the Matamata County Council by Mr Eric Owen Carson in 1978 *in pursuance* of a Deed of Covenant dated 16 August 1977, to be held in perpetuity as a reserve.

Purpose, Use and User Groups: The purpose of the Reserve is to protect some of the natural environment and beauty of the District.

Leasee: Not applicable.

Reserve Management and Maintenance: The reserve is administered solely by the South Waikato District Council. No maintenance of the reserve is currently undertaken by the South Waikato District Council; however possum control is carried out by the Waikato Regional Council as part of their Priority Possum Control Area (PPCA) sector known as Waotu.

Future development options:

It is recommended that the reserve be left in its current state.

Dunham's Creek Reserve

Location: The reserve is located on Ongaroto Road (SH30) and is on the foreshore of Lake Whakamaru.

Access: Ongaroto Road (SH30) only.

Portfolio Designation: Rural reserve

Map:



Legal Description:

Section/Lot:	Area (ha):	Classification under Reserves Act 1977 as referenced in the NZ Gazette:
Part Section 1 SO 326120	Not surveyed	N/A

District Plan Zone: Rural

Natural and Physical Features: A rural style reserve, with a relatively flat area and provides easy off-road access to the lake for swimming. There is a mobility trail and board walk leading through a section of native bush which is the start of the section of the River Trail between Dunham's Creek and Dunham's Point reserves. It is a strategic link in the Waikato River Trail and provides a stopping off point for walkers.

Historical /Investment Background: Held by the Crown as Crown land subject to the Land Act 1948 and subject to a hydro lake operating easement.

Purpose, Use and User Groups: The purpose of the reserve is to provide an open space for informal passive and active recreational use for the public and for travellers and walkers along the River Trail.

Leasee: Not applicable.

Reserve Management and Maintenance: The reserve is administered by the South Waikato District Council. Maintenance of the reserve is managed by the South Waikato District Council.

Turf is cut to 75mm, to be cut 6 times a year, including December prior to the Holiday period.

A 200L drum litter bin is provided.

Litter control to be maintained to an appropriate level.

Hard surfacing to be kept clean and free of weeds.

Future development options:

- Continue to maintain at current levels of service;
- Plant specimen New Zealand Native trees.

Dunham's Point Reserve

Location: Dunham's Point is situated on Lake Whakamaru with access from Ongaroto Road, approximately 42 kilometres from Tokoroa. It is located within 2 kilometres of Snowsill and Dunham's Creek Reserves.

Access: Ongaroto Road (SH32)

Portfolio Designation: Rural reserve

Map:



Legal Description:

Section/Lot:	Area (ha):	Classification under Reserves Act 1977 as referenced in the NZ Gazette:
Section 5 SO 326120	5.984	N/A

District Plan Zone: Rural

Natural and Physical Features: There is an appealing entrance to the reserve with lovely views of the river, and it is a good area for camping with large grassed areas, planting and contours dividing it into many sites. The highway is not visible from the reserve making it private and enhancing its appeal to the public. There is a great view of the bluffs on the other side of the river and groups of unusual rocks in the river can also

be seen. It is also a strategic link into the Waikato River Trail. It is of high scenic value and has both boat access and direct access to a ski lane.

Historical /Investment Background: Held by the Crown as Crown land subject to the Land Act 1948 and subject to a hydro lake operating easement.

Between 1963 and 1980 eight parcels of Crown land, including Section 5 SO 326120 ("Dunham's Point reserve") held for water power development under the Public Works Act were specifically identified on the shores of hydro lakes Karapiro, Arapuni, Whakamaru and Maraetai. Ready access and public demand resulted in these parcels, by notice in the NZ Gazette, being authorised for recreation purposes as a secondary use, subject to the Reserves Act. The control and management of each parcel was vested in the surrounding local authority. The authorisation for recreation purposes as a secondary use for Dunham's Point was contained in NZ Gazette 1966 page 944.

In 1995 with the demise of NZ Electricity Department and the establishment of State-owned enterprise Electricity Corporation of New Zealand (later Mighty River Power Limited, now Mercury NZ Ltd, and others) the Crown requested that the local authority surrounding each of the secondary use reserves agree to that secondary use being uplifted. That was to enable all land comprising lakebed and margins to be declared Crown land under the Land Act – a preliminary step to such land being made subject to an operating easement appurtenant to the fee simple titles to the dams and power stations. The secondary use authorisation was revoked by NZ Gazette 1995 page 4795.

The Crown (then represented by the Department of Survey and Land Information, now Land Information New Zealand, or LINZ) gave an undertaking that following registration of the operating easement, the former secondary use parcels would be vested as recreation reserves in the District Councils.

When Waikato River operating easements were surveyed, each parcel to be subsequently reserved and vested was separately defined. The operating easements were registered in January 2011 but no subsequent reservation and vesting of the eight parcels have taken place. Responsibility for that action rests with the Department of Conservation.

Recent correspondence to Council from the Department of Conservation indicated that initial consultation with Iwi which DOC carried out in 2015 and 2016 in respect of vesting the reserves in Councils needed to be revisited, since for some sites, the Iwi requested to be involved more closely with reserve management.

They advised that in the interim there is sufficient Iwi feedback to complete the first part of the process, that is, the setting apart as reserve and classification for recreation purposes and that a further step could be a control and manage appointment to Councils (not a vesting).

A vault type 2 pan toilet block was installed within the reserve to replace the long drop toilets in 2013.

In 2018/19 Council accessed funding from the Tourism Infrastructural Fund to install a shower block, recycling bin station and an electric barbeque unit and shelter.

In 2019 a number of deteriorating mature Pines were felled, with replacement New Zealand native and exotic trees planted in 2020.

Purpose, Use and User Groups: The purpose of the Reserve is to provide a large open space for informal passive and active recreational use for the public, to access Lake

Whakamaru, and to protect other environments in the area. Dunham's Point has high usage especially so during the summer months by campers and day trippers enjoying the easy access to the river. It is also visited by walkers on their way along the Waikato River Trail.

Leasee: Not applicable.

Reserve Management and Maintenance: The reserve is administered by the South Waikato District Council. Maintenance of the reserve is managed by the South Waikato District Council.

Turf is cut to 75mm, to be cut 6 times a year, including December prior to the Holiday period.

Garden maintenance includes the maintaining of native revegetation and shrub plantings.

Maintenance of park furniture includes to be kept in a clean and in a safe condition.

Hard surfacing to be kept clean and free of weeds.

Litter control to be maintained to an appropriate level.

Toilet cleaning to be carried out to an appropriate level as per contract.

Internal metalled road is replenished as required.

Future development options:

- Council to continue to pursue its right to title to Dunham's Point reserve as recreation reserve, subject to the Reserves Act 1977.
- Continue weed control of pest plants such as broom and blackberry within the reserve
- Continue to plant NZ native trees
- Install a bicycle stand by the toilet block
- Provide Informational signage, detailing significance and historical use of the area by Māori
- Improve signage messaging including information regarding freedom camping permits.

Duxfield Reserve

Location: The reserve is located on Arapuni Road, approximately 4.2 km from Putāruru township. The entrance to the reserve is directly opposite the Arapuni Road/Pearsons Road intersection.

Access: Arapuni Road.

Portfolio Designation: Rural reserve

Map:



Legal Description:

Section/Lot:	Area (ha):	Classification under Reserves Act 1977 as referenced in the NZ Gazette:
N/A	Not surveyed (approx.0.0356)	N/A

District Plan Zone: Rural

Natural and Physical Features: The reserve is a long narrow strip of land, overlooking the Pokaiwhenua Stream with easy access and good off-road parking. It is a very pleasant picnic area with some native and exotic trees providing shade. The most significant landscape features are the mature Oak tree and the waterfall which cascades over a rock shelf and is used by kayakers. Views of the waterfall are limited due to the pipe and wire safety barrier and steep drop into the stream.

Historical /Investment Background: Road vested in the South Waikato District Council (previously Matamata County Council) by operation of s.315 and 316, Local Government Act 1974. To establish this parcel as reserve, a survey and road stopping is required under the Local Government Act 1974 or the Public Works Act 1981. Section 345(3), Local Government Act or s.118, Public Works Act will apply on stopping – provision for a recreation reserve.

The reserve was originally developed by the Putaruru Lions Club in 1973.¹

In 2008 one each of *Fraxinus ornus*, (Ash), *Acer palmatum* (Maple) and *Gingko biloba* (Maidenhair Tree) trees were planted in the area on the left-hand side of the driveway.

In 2013 5 *Ulmus* 'Lobel' ("Upright Elm") trees were planted for autumnal colour on the frontage.

The reserve has a mesh fence for safety on the stream side. A 200L litter bin is provided. Modern signage was installed in 2018, along with a picnic table.

In 2019 the entrance and road within the reserve was regraded and re-metalled.

Purpose, Use and User Groups: The purpose of the Reserve is to provide a large open space for informal passive and active recreational use for the public and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside. Currently it used for picnicking, and as access to the Pokaiwhenua Stream for fishing.

Leasee: Not applicable.

Reserve Management and Maintenance: The reserve is administered solely by the South Waikato District Council. Maintenance of the reserve is managed by the South Waikato District Council.

Turf is maintained to keep the grass height between 35mm and 100mm.

Garden maintenance includes maintenance of NZ native revegetation plantings.

Maintenance of park furniture includes to be kept in a clean and in a safe condition.

Hard surfacing to be kept clean and free of weeds.

Litter control to be maintained to an appropriate level.

Internal metalled road is replenished as required.

Future development options:

- Conduct survey and road stopping and classify as a recreation reserve;
- Install bollarding on left side of driveway to prevent vehicle damage to turf over winter months
- Continue to maintain at current levels of service;
- Provide Informational signage, detailing significance and historical use of the area by Māori;
- The adjoining landowner's at the northern end have proposed gifting part of their land for Council to create an extended walkway from their land through the Council owned section of land between their property, to the strip of legal road part of which contains "Duxfield Reserve".



¹ V. Scherer, "Putāruru, Home of the Owl", page 116

Jim Barnett Reserve

Location: The reserve is located on Waotu South Road.

Access: Waotu South Road.

Portfolio Designation: Rural reserve

Map:



Legal Description:

Section/Lot:	Area (ha):	Classification under Reserves Act 1977 as referenced in the NZ Gazette:
Lot 2 DP 28078	0.7057	Scenic Reserve
Part Lot 3 DP 25793	19.6803	Scenic Reserve

District Plan Zone: Rural

Natural and Physical Features: The reserve is the only accessible example of intact native bush in the South Waikato. The reserve is composed of modified and regenerating forest. Facilities include a small camping area, picnic area, tap for water supply, two composting toilets and wheelchair access through a gate near the main entry. There are a number of maintained tracks throughout the reserve.

Historical /Investment Background: Acquired under the Public Works Act 1981 by NZ Gazette 1992-page 2904 from the Estate of James Allan Barnett. Classified and formally named Jim Barnett Scenic Reserve subject to the provisions of s.19(1)(a), Reserves Act 1977 by NZ Gazette 1992 page 4446.

In 1990 Council received a letter from the Late Gordon Stephenson on behalf of Mr Brian Barnett to ascertain if Council would be interested in purchasing an area of bush available on Waotu South Road. Council committed funding, and with funding provided by the Forest Heritage Trust the land was purchased in 1992. One of the conditions of purchase set by the Forest Heritage Trust was that the land be declared a scenic reserve under the Reserves Act 1977.

During the 1920's the forest in this area was logged for the main podocarp species, and farm livestock subsequently had access until the reserve was established in 1992. The vegetation was extensively modified, first by the removal of millable trees of some species, secondly by browsing and grazing livestock, thirdly by browsing by the introduced Brush-tailed possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*). These vegetation changes severely affected the avian assemblage with exotic mammalian predators of birds having a further disastrous affect (all of this information was gained from a Waikato University assignment by H Clifford "Jim Barnett Reserve- Comparison of Two Bird Survey Methods").

A community committee made up of members from local families, representatives from Council, Waikato River Trails and the Waotu School looks after the reserve, along with the Walter Barnett Reserve nearby. Gordon Stephenson was very active in encouraging the development of this reserve, and members of the Forest and Bird Society and local iwi have also been involved in the committee over the years. Tracks have been created, fencing, carparking, park furniture and signage installed, pest plants eradicated, and native trees planted to develop the reserve over time. A significant number of hours are devoted to the reserve by volunteers who regularly undertake pest animal control with bait stations and holding working bees throughout each year. Community Detention has been active in doing maintenance on the reserve in past years with the Waikato River Trails now engaged by Council to maintain the tracks within the reserve. The Waotu School are involved with pest tracking and educational sessions in the reserve around flora and bird life. Putāruru pre-school centres also have children coming into the reserve weekly.

In 2018 a timber memorial shelter was installed within the picnic area.

In 2019 the timber bridges and boardwalks were re-decked as necessary.

Purpose, Use and User Groups: The purpose of the Reserve is to preserve a large area of native bush, provide access paths and information for the enjoyment of the public, provide a large open space for informal passive and active recreational use for the public and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside.

Leasee: Not applicable.

Reserve Management and Maintenance: The reserve is administered by the South Waikato District Council in conjunction with the Barnett Reserves Committee. Maintenance of the reserve is managed by the South Waikato District Council (mowing, weed-trimming, weed spraying), local volunteers (pest animal and weed control,) and the Waikato River Trails (track maintenance).

The Waikato Regional Council also undertake possum control within the reserve as part of their Priority Possum Control Area (PPCA) sector known as Waotu.

Turf within the picnic area is to be maintained to keep grass height between 35-100mm.

Maintenance of park furniture includes to be kept in a clean and in a safe condition.

Hard surfacing to be kept clean and free of weeds.

Toilet cleaning to be carried out to an appropriate level as per contract.

Metalled tracks and carpark are replenished as required.

Future development options:

- Place gravel on Gordon's Track;
- Construct steps on the steep slope where John's Track meets Tane's Track;
- Eradicate weeds, plant and mulch the area at the end of the main parking area;
- Mulch the mid area of Tane's Track to suppress weeds and allow for picnicking;
- Continue to maintain at current levels of service.

Jones Landing

Location: Jones' Landing is located on the Waikato River and is 27 kilometres west of Putāruru.

Access: Access is gained from Lake Arapuni Road.

Portfolio Designation: Rural reserve.

Map:



Legal Description:

Section/Lot:	Area (ha):	Classification under Reserves Act 1977 as referenced in the NZ Gazette:
Section 3 SO 326129	1.3780	N/A

District Plan Zone: Rural

Natural and Physical Features: A very attractive reserve with a large flat area of grass along the river edge and a small hill on the northern edge of the Reserve enclosing a small still backwater of the Waikato River. The significant rock bluffs dominate the view to the north and emphasize the importance of the site as part of the Waikato River Trail. This trail is of strategic importance for visitors and will be approximately 100km long when completed. Facilities include; toilets, boat ramp, playground equipment and a jetty. In the winter the grassed area becomes very damp. The water supply for the toilets comes from an adjacent property.

Historical /Investment Background: The reserve was originally developed as a combined project between the Matamata County Council and the Putaruru Jaycees in 1969 to build a boat ramp and toilet block.¹

Held by the Crown as Crown land subject to the Land Act 1948 and subject to a hydro lake operating easement.

Between 1963 and 1980 eight parcels of Crown land, including Section 3 SO 326129 ("Jones Landing") held for water power development under the Public Works Act were specifically identified on the shores of hydro lakes Karapiro, Arapuni, Whakamaru and Maraetai. Ready access and public demand resulted in these parcels, by notice in the NZ Gazette, being authorised for recreation purposes as a secondary use, subject to the Reserves Act. The control and management of each parcel was vested in the surrounding local authority. The authorisation for recreation purposes as a secondary use for Dunham's Point was contained in NZ Gazette 1966 page 944.

In 1995 with the demise of NZ Electricity Department and the establishment of State-owned enterprise Electricity Corporation of New Zealand (later Mighty River Power Limited, now Mercury NZ Ltd, and others) the Crown requested that the local authority surrounding each of the secondary use reserves agree to that secondary use being uplifted. That was to enable all land comprising lakebed and margins to be declared Crown land under the Land Act – a preliminary step to such land being made subject to an operating easement appurtenant to the fee simple titles to the dams and power stations. The secondary use authorisation was revoked by NZ Gazette 1995 page 4795.

The Crown (then represented by the Department of Survey and Land Information, now Land Information New Zealand, or LINZ) gave an undertaking that following registration of the operating easement, the former secondary use parcels would be vested as recreation reserves in the District Councils.

When Waikato River operating easements were surveyed, each parcel to be subsequently reserved and vested was separately defined. The operating easements were registered in January 2011 but no subsequent reservation and vesting of the eight parcels have taken place. Responsibility for that action rests with the Department of Conservation.

Recent correspondence to Council from the Department of Conservation indicated that initial consultation with Iwi which DOC carried out in 2015 and 2016 in respect of vesting the reserves in Councils needed to be revisited, since for some sites, the Iwi requested to be involved more closely with reserve management.

They advised that in the interim there is sufficient Iwi feedback to complete the first part of the process, that is, the setting apart as reserve and classification for recreation purposes and that a further step could be a control and manage appointment to Councils (not a vesting).

Throughout the 1980's and 90's the jetty, seats and picnic tables were installed.

From 2006 to 2008 the jetty and litter bins were upgraded, and a slide and swings were installed.

In 2014 to 2016 the swings were replaced, and a gas barbecue unit and associated picnic seats were installed.

In 2018/19 Council accessed funding from the Tourism Infrastructural Fund to install a shower block, recycling bin station and an electric barbeque unit and shelter. The Park name sign was also replaced with modern signage.

Purpose, Use and User Groups: The purpose of the Reserve is to provide a large open space for informal passive and active recreational use for the public and access to the Waikato River. It is a popular site for campers and boaties in the summer and the long weekends. The inland location of the South Waikato and the distance from the coast makes access to the rivers and lakes in the district important for recreational use for residents.

Leasee: Not applicable.

Reserve Management and Maintenance: The reserve is administered by the South Waikato District Council. Maintenance of the reserve is managed by the South Waikato District Council.

Turf is cut to 75mm, to be cut 6 times a year, including December prior to the Holiday period.

Garden maintenance includes the maintaining of New Zealand native revegetation plantings.

Maintenance of park furniture includes to be kept in a clean and in a safe condition.

Hard surfacing to be kept clean and free of weeds.

Litter control to be maintained to an appropriate level.

Toilet cleaning to be carried out to an appropriate level as per contract.

Future development options:

- Council to continue to pursue its right to title to Jones Landing as recreation reserve, subject to the Reserves Act 1977;
- Improve signage messaging including information regarding freedom camping permits;
- Provide Informational signage, detailing significance and historical use of the area by Māori;
- Continue to maintain at current levels of service.

¹ V. Scherer, "Putāruru, Home of the Owl", page 116.

Lake Whakamaru Reserve

Location: The reserve is a long narrow strip of land between Ongaroto Road and the Waikato River, near the Whakamaru Dam.

Access: Ongaroto Road (SH32)

Portfolio Designation: Rural reserve

Map:



Legal Description:

Section/Lot:	Area (ha):	Classification under Reserves Act 1977 as referenced in the NZ Gazette:
Part Section 1 SO 326120	14.3749	N/A

District Plan Zone: Rural

Natural and Physical Features: The reserve provides limited but attractive access to the Waikato River. There is a boat ramp at the northern end, and a small beach area at the southern end of the reserve. It has a number of open grassed areas for camping and is used extensively by campers over the summer. It provides another strategic link in the Waikato River Trails walkway.

Historical /Investment Background: Held by the Crown as Crown land subject to the Land Act 1948 and subject to a hydro lake operating easement for a right to store water and right to install and operate hydro- electricity works.

Between 1963 and 1980 eight parcels of Crown land held for water power development under the Public Works Act were specifically identified on the shores of hydro lakes Karapiro, Arapuni, Whakamaru and Maraetai. Ready access and public demand resulted in these parcels, by notice in the NZ Gazette, being authorised for recreation purposes as a secondary use, subject to the Reserves Act. The control and management of each parcel was vested in the surrounding local authority. However, there is no record in *Landonline* of Lake Whakamaru Reserve being identified for such secondary use.

The reserve was formerly known as the Carter Holt Harvey Recreation Area (Whakamaru). The land consists of some Crown land under Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) administration but subject to an operating easement in favour Mercury New Zealand Ltd. This easement is the predominant use of the land and any other uses is secondary. Carter Holt Harvey also owns some land within the reserve. Since 2001 the South Waikato District Council has managed and maintained the reserve. A lease application is currently still to be approved by LINZ. Recently Colliers International, who act as agent for LINZ, have confirmed their recommendation to LINZ has been finalised, and have advised that LINZ has to do iwi consultation on all applications adjacent the Waikato River Lakes as part of considering Council's request.

In 2012 the various long-drop toilets were removed, and two 2 pan vault type toilet blocks installed within the reserve.

In 2019, with approval from LINZ the aging Pine trees within the reserve were felled due to concerns with public safety. Post harvesting removal of slash was completed with remaining debris placed into piles to break down over time. Ground remediation works including levelling and reseeding was carried out and replacement quicker growing exotic tree species were planted within the main camping areas, in order to provide shade. New Zealand native trees were also planted predominantly within the non-camping areas, and around the debris pile perimeters, with further planting to be carried out as the debris breaks down over time to become native "islands" within the camping areas.

Purpose, Use and User Groups: The purpose of the Reserve is to provide a large open space for informal passive and active recreational use for the public and to allow access to the Waikato River. It has high use in the summer by campers, boaties and day visitors for picnics.

Leasee: Not applicable.

Reserve Management and Maintenance: The reserve is managed by the South Waikato District Council. Maintenance of the reserve is managed by the South Waikato District Council.

Turf is cut to 75mm, to be cut 6 times a year, including December prior to the Holiday period.

Garden maintenance includes the maintaining of New Zealand native revegetation plantings.

Maintenance of park furniture includes to be kept in a clean and in a safe condition.

Hard surfacing to be kept clean and free of weeds.

Litter control to be maintained to an appropriate level.

Toilet cleaning to be carried out to an appropriate level as per contract.

Metalled roads to be replenished as required.

Future development options:

- Once a lease agreement has been approved by LINZ Council intends with the support of Tourism Infrastructure Funding if granted, to install a shower block, replacement picnic tables, barbeque units with shelters and recycling bin stations within the reserve. Mercury NZ and Raukawa have indicated support to complete this work;
- Continue to plant New Zealand native tree species within the non-camping areas of the reserve;
- Improve signage messaging including information regarding freedom camping permits;
- Install bicycle stand by the toilet blocks;
- Provide Informational signage, detailing significance and historical use of the area by Māori;
- Continue to maintain at current level of service.

Lichfield Reserve

Location: Lichfield Reserve is located on Kells Lane in Lichfield, next to the Lichfield Primary School.

Access: Public pedestrian access is from the Lane, through the carpark provided on the Reserve. Vehicular access is available in two places along Kells Lane. School access to the Reserve is from the rear of the school property, through the hall site.

Portfolio Designation: Rural reserve

Map:



Legal Description:

Section/Lot:	Area (ha):	Classification under Reserves Act 1977 as referenced in the NZ Gazette:
Section 26 Block XV, Patetere North Survey District	4.3706	Recreation Reserve

District Plan Zone: Rural

Natural and Physical Features: The Lichfield Reserve has an 'English Pastoral Landscape Character' derived from the significant plantings of large deciduous trees from the northern hemisphere such as the oaks and the grassed open space and adjacent

pasture. There is an historic cultural overlay as some of the trees planted in memory of the soldiers who died in World War One and remnants of the early settlement in the form of light standards remain on site but are not used. These elements reinforce the English pastoral landscape character of the Domain. Adding to the pastoral character of the site is the view obtained from the road which is framed and filtered by the canopy of the oak trees to the open space and adjacent farmland. Of moderate visual appeal the land is flat and gentle rolling pasture. On the Reserve's north-west corner is the South Waikato Pony Club building and storage shed. A car parking area is situated on the south-west side of the Reserve and is also used as parking for the school and associated hall use. The South Waikato District Council retains responsibility for maintenance of the carpark.

Boundary planting is a special feature with its mix of exotic and indigenous tree species. The row of trees starting at the northern end of the school consists of a large oak (*Quercus robur*) in the car park and from here northwards are maple (*Acer*) species, *Platanus x acerifolia* (London Plane), large Poplar species, *Aesculus* (Chestnut) , *Podocarpus totara* (Totara) and a Walnut (*Juglans*) tree. Trees located along the eastern boundary of the Reserve include *Salix matsudana* 'Tortuosa' (Tortured Willow), Maple species, *Cedrus deodara* (Himalayan Cedar), *Prunus* species, Chinese Fir (*Cunninghamia lanceolata*), *Betula pendula* (Silver birch), *Thuja*, *Ginkgo biloba* (Maidenhair tree), and *Cryptomeria japonica* 'Elegans'(Japanese Cedar).

Historical /Investment Background:

Originally part of Crown owned Selwyn Settlement, Section 26 was set apart as recreation reserve by NZ Gazette 1907 page 3124. The reserve was made subject to the Public Domains Act 1881 by NZ Gazette 1907 page 3325 and local people domain boards were appointed as the Lichfield Domain Board down through the decades until management passed to the District Council under The Local Government (Waikato Region) Reorganisation Order 1989 – NZ Gazette 1989 page 2460. The first Domain Board was appointed to have control of the Lichfield Domain in 1946 (New Zealand Gazette page 120). The first meeting of the Board was held on the 4 February 1946 in the Lichfield Public Hall.

The Reserve is owned by the Department of Conservation but is administered by the South Waikato District Council. Therefore, Council's interest from 1989 is only that of holder of an appointment to control and manage.

The earliest mention of Lichfield and surrounding District is found in the records of the Piako County Council which details how the Patetere Block had been to the Native Land Court numerous times. The land Lichfield was developed on was originally owned by local Maori and bought by the Matarawa Land Company who owned all the land between Cambridge and Taupo. Nancy Sneddon, a prominent Lichfield local, states that an old Maori of the District told her that the Matarawa Land Co. bought the land from the Maoris for blankets, and poor ones at that. At this time, Lichfield was then a wilderness of Manuka, Tawheri and Tussock and used as a staging post. The water tower was used to fill the trains which travelled to Mokai. In 1879 the Thames Valley Land Company (TVLC) negotiated for the purchase of the land and in 1883 it was transferred to them for £230,000. Land transfer plans of the town of Lichfield were set down in 1884 and included a large township and cathedral square. The land was purchased by the Crown in 1905 from the TVLC under the Lands for Consolidation Act 1900 due to the company going into liquidation. This land became known as the Selwyn Settlement and was cut into smaller holdings which included the Lichfield Domain. One quarter of the area was set aside as a forest reserve. The Reserve used to be one of the biggest cycling grass

velodromes in New Zealand, second to Cooks Gardens in terms of quality; in fact, the remains of the old light posts are still there but are not in use. The original Post Office which used to be part of Miss Kell's Cottage was situated across from the school. The Reserve was originally used for community activities such as calf days, church services and jubilee celebrations. Picnics were also a common occurrence with shade provided by the numerous oak trees. Nowadays, any special event in Lichfield incorporates the use of the Reserve in conjunction with the Community Hall which is situated along side it. A native bush area within the Lichfield Reserve has been developed with the financial assistance of the Lichfield School.

Purpose, Use and User Groups: The South Waikato Pony Club uses the Reserve for meetings, dressage events and practices. The Reserve also houses their clubrooms. Their season begins mid-September and ends in April. During this the Reserve is used 3-4 times a month for practicing. Occasionally Timberlands, the PPC parent club, and PPC hold events on the Reserve whereby a ground hire charge is ascertained.

Lichfield Primary School use the Reserve daily during the school term for athletics, sporting and recreational activities and as their playing fields

The community in general have access to the Reserve for picnics or recreation.

Leasee: Any lease over the Reserve must be by way of concession in terms of Section 59A of the Reserves Act 1977 and in accordance with Part 3B of the Conservation Act 1987.

The South Waikato Pony Club lease an area on which they have erected their own storage shed. The grounds are also subject to ground hire charges for occasions such as Pony Club events whereby they pay on a fee per horse basis. These charges are set by the South Waikato District Council.

The Reserve is leased for grazing livestock by the adjoining Landowner which helps with maintenance; the lessee also mows the part of the Reserve that is in use by the School.

Reserve Management and Maintenance: The reserve is administered by the South Waikato District Council. Maintenance of the reserve is managed by the South Waikato District Council under a lease agreement with the adjoining farmer.

Council maintains the carpark area, hard surfacing to be kept clean and free of weeds.

Future development options:

- Plant additional trees in gaps and continue planting of trees on the Kells Lane boundary to help retain the landscape character of the reserve;
- Plant additional trees further along the eastern boundary;
- Consider installing fitness equipment around the perimeter of the reserve;
- Conduct arboricultural assessment of existing mature trees and undertake required tree works accordingly;
- Seek the vesting of the reserve to the South Waikato District Council by the Department of Conservation;
- Continue to maintain at current level of service.

Little Waipa Reserve

Location: The reserve is on the Waikato River and is currently the northern most point of the Waikato River Trail.

Access: Access can be gained from Horahora Road.

Portfolio Designation: Rural Reserve

Map:



Legal Description:

Section/Lot:	Area (ha):	Classification under Reserves Act 1977 as referenced in the NZ Gazette:
Sections 2 and 15, Block VIII, Maungatautari Survey District	1.9246	Recreation Reserve

District Plan Zone: Rural

Natural and Physical Features: There is good access to a small sandy beach on the river edge and a boat ramp. It has an open area that can be used for camping and has an English park-like ambiance with specimen trees providing shelter. The access road is metalled.

Historical /Investment Background: Little Waipa Reserve is one of the first areas of park land acquired by the Matamata County Council in 1960 for the sum of £402 . It reflects how the then County Council viewed the importance of retaining and protecting areas of land for public use. Section 2 was set apart by the Crown as recreation reserve by NZ Gazette 1960-page 1992 with the Matamata County Council appointed to control and manage by NZ Gazette 1960-page 1989, as a public domain. Section 15 was road, stopped by the Crown and added to the domain by NZ Gazette 1969 page 779.

Both parcels were classified for recreation by NZ Gazette 1980-page 2412 [Instrument H303339] and by operation of s.26A, Reserves Act the reserves vested in the County Council. The County Council was declared a former authority and the reserves vested in the District Council under The Local Government (Waikato Region) Reorganisation Order 1989.

In 2008 200L bins were installed within the reserve.

In 2012 the two long-drop toilets were replaced with a vault type 2 pan toilet block, and the sign at the entrance on Horahora Road was replaced with more modern and larger sign board.

In 2016 a gas barbeque unit and two picnic tables were installed in the middle of the reserve.

In 2018/19 through Tourism Infrastructure Fund funding an additional barbeque unit and shelter, a shower block and recycling bins were installed within the reserve.

In recent years specimen exotic trees have been planted within the reserve to provide additional shade for users.

Purpose, Use and User Groups: The purpose of the Reserve is to provide a large open space for informal passive and active recreational use for the public and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside. It is a popular site for campers and boaties in the summer and is the most frequented reserve on the Waikato River Trails.

Leasee: Not applicable.

Reserve Management and Maintenance: The reserve is administered solely by the South Waikato District Council. Maintenance of the reserve is managed by the South Waikato District Council.

Turf is cut to 75mm, to be cut 6 times a year, including December prior to the Holiday period.

Garden maintenance includes the maintaining of shrub gardens and New Zealand native revegetation plantings.

Maintenance of park furniture includes to be kept in a clean and in a safe condition.

Hard surfacing to be kept clean and free of weeds.

Litter control to be maintained to an appropriate level.

Toilet cleaning to be carried out to an appropriate level as per contract.

Metalled roads to be replenished as required.

Future development options:

- Consider sealing the section of road in from Horahora Road to the reserve entrance;
- Improve signage messaging including information regarding freedom camping permits;
- Provide Informational signage, detailing significance and historical use of the area by Māori;
- Install bicycle stands by the toilet block;
- Provide a metalled carparking area at the Arapuni end of the reserve;
- Replace timber railing at entrance with timber bollards when due for replacing to improve visibility;
- Continue to maintain at current level of service.

Putāruru Timber Museum

Location: The Museum site is located off State Highway 1 approximately 1.3 km's south of Putāruru.

Access: Access can be gained from State Highway One.

Portfolio Designation: Rural reserve

Map:



Legal Description:

Section/Lot	Area (ha)	Classification under Reserves Act 1977 as referenced in the NZ Gazette:
Part Lot 6 DP 19039	3.8807	Local Purpose (community buildings) Reserve
Lot 1 DP 35861	0.8944	Local Purpose (community buildings) Reserve

Section 1 SO 61757	1.1186	Local Purpose (community buildings) Reserve
Section 1 SO 446059	0.1321	Local Purpose (community buildings) Reserve

District Plan Zone: Rural

Natural and Physical features:

Historical /Investment Background: The timber museum was established near Putaruru in 1972, to celebrate, record, and preserve the history of the timber industry, particularly in the South Waikato District. A small but passionate and dedicated group, the Timber Museum Society, supported by the District Council and local industry developed and managed the site until 2007. In that year the Timber Museum of New Zealand Trust took over from the Society.

The Trust is working on the expansion and upgrading of this valuable resource, to tell the stories of the primeval native rain forest prior to colonisation; the harvesting and milling of much of that forest; and the rise of the plantation forest industry in New Zealand as supplies of native wood ran out.

Logging the rich native forests of the South Waikato District was made inevitable by completion of two railway tracks: the Frankton to Rotorua branch line across the Mamaku Range in 1894, and the Taupo Totara Timber Company (TTT) 80 km private light railway from Putaruru to Mokai in 1903. At the time, the TTT rail bridge over the Waikato River at Ongaroto was believed to be the longest single-span wooden suspension bridge in the world. The museum has a model of the bridge, scaled from original plans. The museum is the repository of several historic buildings, which now house displays or have supporting functions.

The museum is on the site of an early plantation -pine sawmill which by 1972 was empty and derelict but has since been refurbished and partly re-equipped.

A representative grove of young native forest is growing on the site, thanks to the late Tony Nooyen's extraordinarily generous commitment to gathering, raising and planting the trees for over 30 years. The grove is named in Mr Nooyen's honour.

Purpose, Use and User groups: Main users are locals, tourists and local community based groups.

Reserve Management and maintenance: The Timber Museum site is managed and maintained by The Timber Museum Trust of New Zealand under contract to the South Waikato District Council.

Turf, garden, park furniture and hard surfacing maintenance is undertaken to performance measures as stated in the SWDC District Reserves Management Plan-Governance document.

Lessee: A lease agreement is in place with The Timber Museum Trust of New Zealand.

Future development options:

- Upgrade garden areas with new plantings.

Snowsill Reserve

Location: The reserve is located on Ongaroto Road (SH30), approximately 100 metres from Dunham's Point Reserve. and is a small flat area adjacent to the Waikato River.

Access: From Ongaroto Road.

Portfolio Designation: Rural Reserve

Map:



Legal Description:

Section/Lot:	Area (ha):	Classification under Reserves Act 1977 as referenced in the NZ Gazette:
Parts Section 1, SO 326120	Not surveyed	N/A

District Plan Zone: Rural

Natural and Physical Features: It comprises a carpark, with surrounding grass and plantings. It has the appearance of a large lay-by and the ground is relatively free

draining. It provides limited access to the Waikato River and is very open and exposed to the road. There is no boat ramp. It is the southern most public access to the Waikato River Trail.

Historical /Investment Background: Held by the Crown as Crown land subject to the Land Act 1948 and subject to a hydro lake operating easement.

Purpose, Use and User Groups: The purpose of the Reserve is to provide an open space for informal passive and active recreational use for the public. It is primarily used by the travelling public as a picnic stop.

Leasee: Not applicable.

Reserve Management and Maintenance: The reserve is administered by the South Waikato District Council. Maintenance of the reserve is managed by the South Waikato District Council.

Turf is cut to 75mm, to be cut 6 times a year, including December prior to the Holiday period.

Hard surfacing to be kept clean and free of weeds.

Metalled roads to be replenished as required.

Future development options:

- Plant specimen New Zealand native trees to help frame the existing open space;
- Continue to maintain at current level of service.

State Highway 5 Scenic Reserve (Hazlehurst Bush)

Location: Nearby State Highway 5, Tapapa, east of Tukorehe Scenic Reserve ("Fitzgerald Glade")

Access: The reserve is landlocked, without road frontage and without benefit of any registered right of way.

Portfolio Designation: Rural reserve

Map:



Legal Description:

Section/Lot:	Area (ha):	Classification under Reserves Act 1977 as referenced in the NZ Gazette:
Lot 3 DPS 66363	2.6050	Scenic reserve

District Plan Zone: Rural

Natural and Physical Features: The reserve is a U-shaped piece of land largely on a slope covered with regenerated native forest comprising *Phyllocladus galucus* (Celery

Pine), *Podocarpus dacrydioides* (White Pine), *Dacrydium cupressinum* (Rimu) and *Knightia excelsa* (NZ Honeysuckle, Rewarewa).

Historical /Investment Background: Originally part of farm block that was subdivided by the former owners Ernest and Leonne Hazlehurst, Lot 3 was vested in Council as scenic reserve on the 1998 subdivision of land in Certificate of Title 128/118 under s.239, Resource Management Act 1991. Council has Right of Way under Section 77 of the Reserves Act through the adjoining Lot 6 to access the reserve. The reserve was classified as a Scenic Reserve, NZ Gazette 2020 In 3083.

Purpose, Use and User Groups: The purpose of the Reserve is to protect a significant stand of native bush.

Leasee: Not applicable.

Reserve Management and Maintenance: The reserve is administered solely by the South Waikato District Council. No maintenance of the reserve is currently undertaken by the South Waikato District Council other than fence maintenance as necessary.

Future development options: It is recommended that the reserve be left in its current state;

- Continue to maintain current level of service;
- Begin to undertake pest animal control within the reserve.

Te Kohatu o Hatupatu (Hatupatu Rock) site.

Location: The site is located adjacent to State Highway One (SH1) approximately 20 km south of Tokoroa and approximately 1.5km north of the SH1/SH30 intersection.

Access: Access is from State Highway One only

Portfolio Designation: Rural reserve

Map:



Legal Description:

Section/Lot:	Area (ha):	Classification under Reserves Act 1977 as referenced in the NZ Gazette:
Part Lot 3 DP 16299	0.1051	N/A

District Plan Zone: Cultural Heritage Site

Natural and Physical Features: Landscaped flat area with carpark containing Hatupatu Rock, of cultural significance.

Historical/Investment background: In 2015 Opus International Consultants were engaged by the New Zealand Transport Authority (NZTA) to develop a detailed design for the upgrade of the carpark, access and drainage at the Te Kohatu o Hatupatu site. The

design brief was to upgrade the existing carpark to modern standards with the ability to accommodate a bus to enter and exit in a forward direction through a single access.

Hatupatu Rock site is associated with the Māori legend of Hatupatu and the Kurangaituku, the "Bird-woman". The rock is said to be the place where Hatupatu took refuge from Kurangaituku who was chasing him through the bush and scratch marks are visible on the rock surface from her trying to get at Hatupatu hiding inside. Traditionally, offerings of twigs, bracken coins and sometimes food are left at the rock by travellers passing by, a practice still occurring today.

The site is recorded as a wāhi tapu site (U14/5) in the NZAA archaeological site database and is the only recorded cultural heritage site in South Waikato District Plan.

Once all of the site works were completed, the intention was to vest the site in South Waikato District Council as a reserve and for the Council to take over the long-term stewardship of the site with the support of the Mana Whenua Collective.



Figure 1: View of Hatupatu Rock looking prior to redevelopment.

Purchase of additional land from NZ Forest Products Limited was required for extending the carpark area. The intention of the landscape design has been to re-create the domain of Kurangaituku using New Zealand native plant materials particularly those which provide habitat for native birds and /or have (rongoa) traditional Maori medicine or mahi toi (traditional Maori arts and crafts) uses.

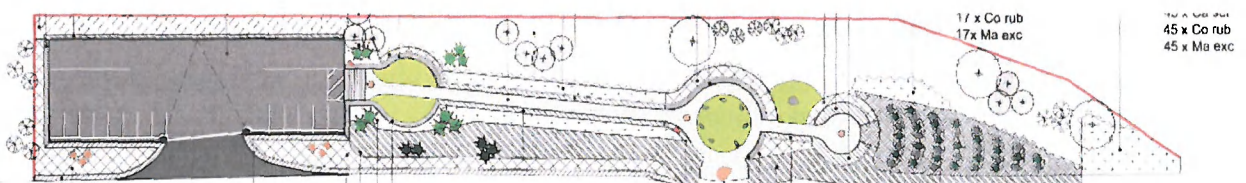


Figure 2: Design layout of the Hatupatu Rock site.

An information sign and two storyboards were proposed for the site and have all been developed by Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga in collaboration with the Mana Whenua Collective. The information sign is located at the entrance to the landscaped path. It informs visitors of the site's sacred nature as a Wahi Tapu site and include a short description explaining its significance to the local iwi/hapu. Two storyboards are placed in succession along the path toward Te Kohatu o Hatupatu, which provide a more detailed description of the story of Hatupatu and Kurangaituku and how the rock features in the korero of their encounter.

The redevelopment construction works were completed in 2016. In 2017 members of the South Waikato District Council and local iwi Raukawa completed planting of the site, and the unveiling of the Te Kōwhatu o Hatupatu Rock.



Figure 3: The Hatupatu Rock site after planting.



Figure 4: The South Waikato mayor, J. Shattock Q.S.M, J.P and R. Begbie of Raukawa on unveiling day.

Purpose, Use and User Groups: The purpose of the reserve is to provide an open space for informal passive recreational use for the public and for travellers on SH1 and provide information on local cultural history.

Leasee: Not applicable.

Reserve Management and Maintenance: The reserve is administered by the South Waikato District Council and local Iwi, although the site is still to be vested to the South Waikato District Council as a reserve. The area occupied by Te Kohatu o Hatupatu lies partly within the SH road reserve and partly in the forests land. The NZTA and Hancock Forest management have been in discussions to complete the transaction of a wider land acquisition agreement that includes this area. However, the agreement has not been finalised due to other constraints. Once the land has been formally acquired by the NZTA, there will be a process through LINZ to request for the transfer of this particular lot to the SWDC. Should LINZ agree to the transfer, then NZTA will inform SWDC on the procedure to formalise the transfer of Te Kohatu o Hatupatu over to SWDC.

Maintenance of the reserve is managed by the South Waikato District Council.

Turf is maintained to keep grass height between 35mm -100mm.

Garden maintenance includes the maintaining of shrub gardens.

All Hard surfacing (carpark, paths and boardwalks) to be kept clean and free of weeds.

Future development options:

- Continue to maintain at current levels of service;
- Continue to plant replacements as needed.

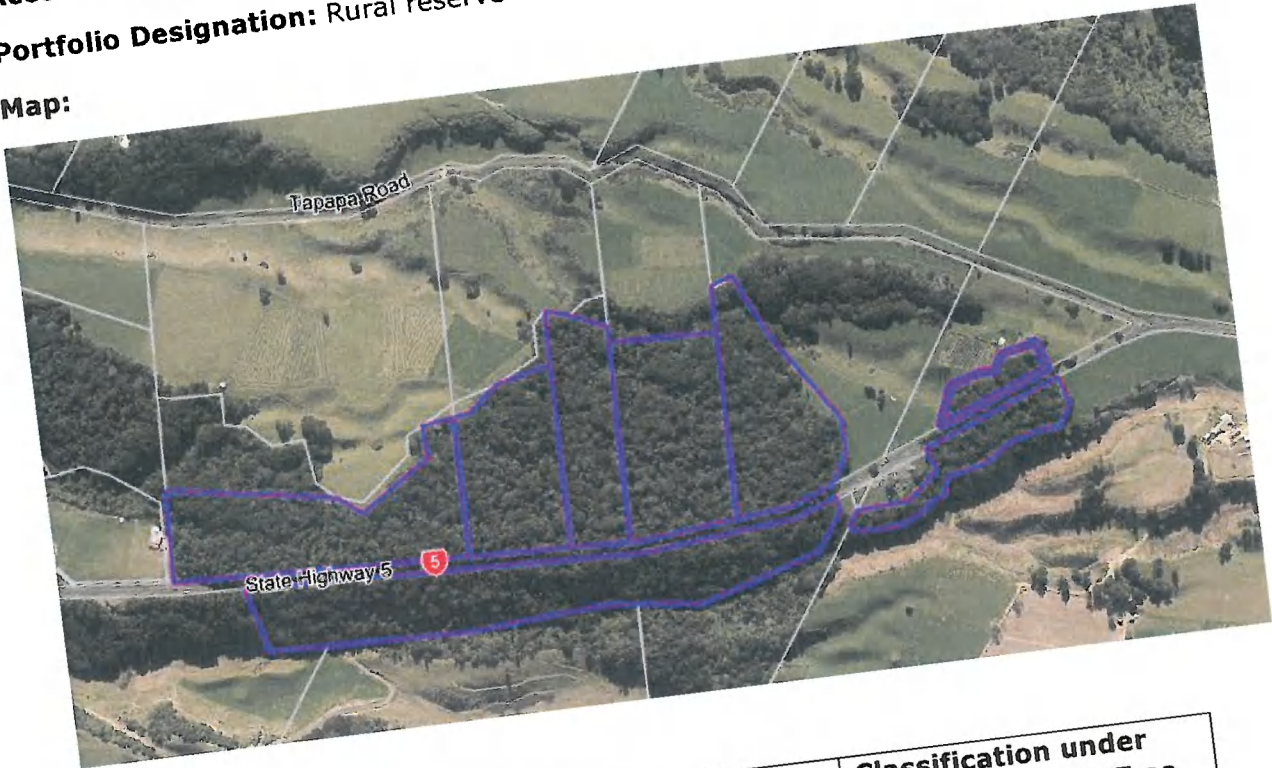
Tukorehe Scenic Reserve (Fitzgerald Glade)

Location: The reserve is located on State Highway 5 between Rotorua and Putaruru.

Access: Off State Highway 5.

Portfolio Designation: Rural reserve

Map:



Legal Description:

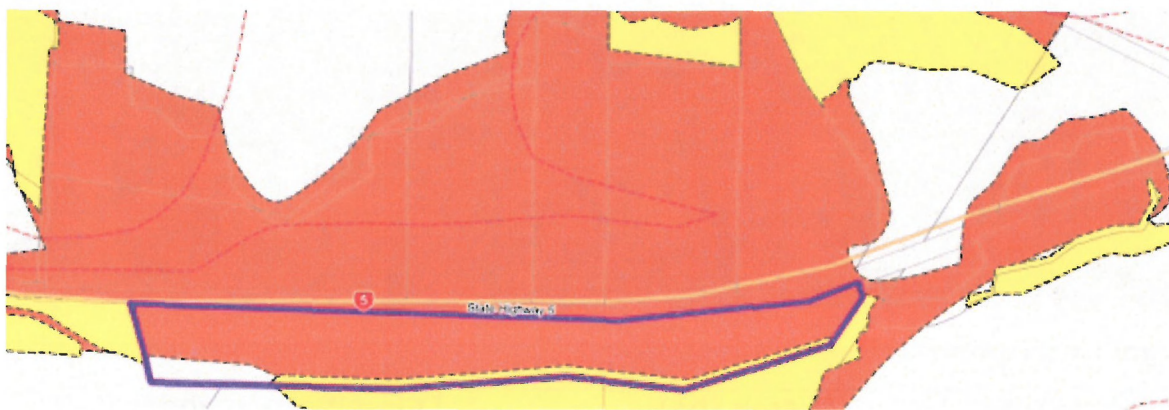
Section/Lot:	Area (ha):	Classification under Reserves Act 1977 as referenced in the NZ Gazette:
Parts Whaiti Kuranui 2D412A, 2D413B2A, 2D413A1, 2D415C1 and 2D415D1	24.5990	Scenic Reserve
Section 1, Block IV, Patetere North Survey District	8.6332	Scenic Reserve
Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, DPS 29315	10.4108	Scenic Reserve
Lots 1 and 2, DPS 23893	2.6460	Scenic Reserve

District Plan Zone: Rural

Natural and Physical Features: There are many mature trees of second growth podocarp forest on both sides of the road creating a canopy. It is approximately 1 km long and is divided into two parts east and west. There are also a number of gullies in the reserve and it is backed by privately owned farmland. There are no established trails through the bush; however, Council is able to access the reserve via the farmland with owner's permission in order to carry out maintenance when needed. The entire 'glade' is owned jointly by the South Waikato District Council, the local Marae and the Department of Conservation. It is unique in that it will never be replicated due to more recent planning restrictions for safe roads; as such it has become an iconic part of SH 5. The relationship between the owners, New Zealand Transport Agency (highway maintenance) and the Waikato Regional Council (pest control) is currently informal. The weed *Tradescantia fluminensis* (Wandering Jew) is a problem which is exacerbated when the bush is thinned and becomes more open to sunlight.

There is a memorial stone set into the bush on the northern side of the reserve honouring Tukorehe.¹

The reserve is designated as an Outstanding Natural Feature Area (shown in orange) within the current 2015 SWDC District Plan:



Within the reserve lives the critically endangered long-tailed bats, North Island robins, kereru, and also a number of rata species.

Historical /Investment Background: The reserve has its origins in the 1930s when local landowner's donated land in order to preserve the bush area. It was originally known as the Tapapa Native Bush Reserve, but was renamed Fitzgerald Glade after Maurice Fitzgerald, who was the Matamata County Engineer from 1923 until 1948 and had a keen interest in the preservation of native bush and bird life.²

The control for the reserve was vested in the Matamata County Council in 1961.³

In 1973 the Matamata County Council approved the renaming of the area of bush surrounding Fitzgerald Glade to be called Tukorehe Scenic Reserve in honour of Tukorehe who was the "the 'captain' of the canoe which brought the ancestors of the local people to New Zealand"⁴

The Matamata County Council was originally appointed by the Crown to manage and control a portion of the Reserve. As a result of the local authority amalgamations the management and control vested in the Matamata County Council passed to the South

Waikato District Council in 1989. The original vesting is found in the NZ Gazette 1963 p.500 and only applied to some areas of the Reserve on the northern side of State Highway 5.

Purpose, Use and User Groups: The purpose of the Reserve is to protect a significant area of bush, and to provide a roadside area of significant appeal.

Leasee: Not applicable.

Reserve Management and Maintenance: The reserve is administered by the South Waikato District Council.

No maintenance of the reserve is managed by the South Waikato District Council other than necessary tree works and fencing maintenance.

Future development options:

- Maintain the reserve in its current condition because of its significance and iconic status;
- Undertake tree inspections to determine health and pruning requirements;
- Undertake pest animal control within the reserve to protect flora and fauna;
- Further infill planting of existing species is required to retain and enhance the quality of the existing ecosystem;
- Upgrade the older style timber name signs.

¹ In P Cummins Memories of Tirau: A history of Tirau (2006, Tirau Historical Society) 103 quoting from Eileen Barker the Centenary of Tapapa School.

² CW Vennell et al, Centennial History of Matamata Plains, 1951 (MCC) 199-200.

³ Kai Jensen, Crucible of Change (1951, MCC) 97.

⁴ In P Cummins Memories of Tirau: A history of Tirau (2006, Tirau Historical Society) 103 quoting from Eileen Barker the Centenary of Tapapa School.

Walter Barnett Reserve

Location: The reserve is located on Waotu South Road.

Access: The reserve can be accessed from the road but doesn't have any formed walkway access as such.

Portfolio Designation: Rural reserve.

Map:



Legal Description:

Section/Lot:	Area (ha):	Classification under Reserves Act 1977 as referenced in the NZ Gazette:
Lots 1 and 2 DP 28078	1.8363	Scenic Reserve

District Plan Zone: Rural

Natural and Physical Features: It is an attractive area of ancient bush spanning both sides of the Waotu South Road.

Historical /Investment Background: The bush is the remnants of a length of forest that once stretched from the south end of Waotu South Rd to the then (1990) Richardson's farm on Lake Arapuni Road about 10km long by up to 1km wide. It was an area of forest that for some reason was not destroyed by the 180 AD Taupo eruption. It contained what was reputed to be the best stand of Totara in the country. Hence the name Waotu "he Waotu tahi nga rakou" the special piece of bush that stands by itself. The only piece of virgin bush left is on the Lamb property on Waotu South Rd. Because of the superb quality of forest and the nearness to the Waikato River, the district has a rich and ancient Maori history, dating back 500 years to the pre-Ngati Raukawa days of Ngati Kahupungapunga. There are many pa sites, and numerous settlements around the old margins of the bush. About 10-15% of the forest remains and it gives Waotu its character and attractiveness. Five areas are under covenant with QE11 National Trust, three areas are reserves and the rest has no formal protection. The Bush on the Barnett farm is part of the biggest single remnant. It is in remarkably good condition, except on the margins where it has been grazed. In 1990 Council was approached by Mr G Stephenson on behalf of Mr B Barnett about the possible sale of Walter Barnett Reserve to the South Waikato District Council. (All compiled by G Stephenson). The reserve originally came under the control of the Matamata County Council in 1958.¹

Purpose, Use and User Groups: The purpose of the Reserve is to protect a significant area of bush.

Leasee: Not applicable.

Reserve Management and Maintenance: The reserves are administered by the South Waikato District Council in conjunction with the Barnett Reserves Committee. No maintenance is carried out within the reserve by the South Waikato District Council.

Pest animal control is managed by the Barnett Reserves Committee, undertaken by volunteers.

Future development options: It is recommended that this reserve be held for the long term in its present state.

¹ Kai Jensen, "Crucible of Change", page 97.

