



Kaikōura Esplanade Recreation Reserve

Reserve Management Plan Draft



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1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose of Reserve

The Kaikōura Recreation Reserve is gazetted as a Recreation Reserve on page 36 in the 1982 Gazette: “4249 square metres, more or less, Section 468, Town of Kaikōura, reserve for recreation purposes by all Gazette Notice 48425. S.O Plan 4665.”

A Reserve Management Plan is required by Section 40 of the Reserves Act 1977.

1.2. Legal Description and Location

Section 468 Town of Kaikōura

The Kaikōura Recreation Reserve is located along the Esplanade, across from 184 to 208 Esplanade, as shown in Appendix 1.

1.3. Physical and Natural Features

The Kaikōura Recreation Reserve is located on the waterfront of the Esplanade at Gooches Beach in the Kaikōura Township. The reserve is approximately 4249m² of flat area that has a steep pea gravel step down onto the beach area.

The area is currently grassed, containing a playground, skateboarding ramp and the former Lion’s Pool site. There are some barbeques and water fountains next to the playground as well as toilets and showers. The former pool currently occupies approximately 50% of the site area, being the pool and associated fenced area and building, as well as the northern area of the reserve, which was reserved for a diving area. The changing rooms, showers and toilets are the only publicly available facilities between West End and Jimmy Armers Beach and are frequently used. Public parking along the Esplanade is good and has previously supported parking for the disused

pools complex and continue to service the playground and access to the beach.

Currently the reserve contains a range of plantings including a coprosma hedge that provides some shelter to the picnic area, and planter boxes that provide a physical barrier between the reserve and the road.

1.4. History and Present Use

The reserve and its environment have been impacted by the 2016 Kaikōura Earthquake. The neighbouring Gooches Beach is now shallower, which has changed its useability, and a previously sandy beach is now reinforced by pea metal to stabilise foreshore erosion, affecting its attractiveness as a swimming beach. The site was previously dominated by the former Lion’s pool – a community pool that was severely damaged by the earthquake . The damaged pool has remained unrepaired, and the community pool has been relocated onto the Peninsula off Scarborough Street.

Kaikōura District Council was appointed as the domain board of the Kaikōura Domain by NZ Gazette 1909. The Kaikōura Recreation Esplanade Reserve was added to the Kaikōura Domain by the NZ Gazette in 1966, which after the Reserves Act 1977 was enacted, was designated as a recreation reserve. In 1982, the NZ Gazette legally classified the Kaikōura Domain as recreation reserve and officially named it the Kaikōura Recreation Reserve.

1.5. District Plan Provisions

The Kaikōura Recreation Reserve is technically zoned as General Rural Zone, which covers all the rural land in the district from hill and high country to plains. It is generally characterised by low-density rural development and a wide range of rural activities. The description of the zone provided in the District Plan states ‘areas used predominantly for primary production activities, including intensive indoor primary production. The zone may also be used for a range of activities that support

primary production activities, including associated rural industry, and other activities that require a rural location’.

Despite the zoning of the reserve, across the road is medium density residential zone, which provides for housing, also provides for visitor accommodation.

The reserve is designated for the purposes of a swimming pool (Swimming Pool KDC-5). Furthermore, as a facility that previously stored pool chemicals, it is also considered a potentially contaminated site. Any change in land use may require investigation of potential contamination.

1.6. Public Consultation

Prior to the drafting of a Reserve Management Plan for the Esplanade Kaikōura Recreation Reserve, Council sought suggestions from the public for potential future uses of the reserve to assist in creating objectives for the utilisation of the space and how it is managed.

A month long period saw a wide range of suggestions, and to further understand these, public workshops were conducted for the public to further express their priorities. The suggestions provided by the public are as follows:

- Demolish the old pool
- Leave it as it
- Establish hot pools
- Barbeques
- Wet play area/splash pads
- Upgrading toilet and changing room facilities
- Area for local vendors/commercial opportunities
- Picnic area/enhanced family activities
- Native planting
- Shading



Figure 1: The former Lion's pool damaged by the 2016 Earthquake, remains unrepaired and unused in 2024.

1.7. Iwi Consultation & Iwi Management Plan

The Reserve neighbours the Statutory Acknowledgement area for Te Tai o Marokura, being the Kaikōura Coastal Marine Area and is acknowledged as such under the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

As set out in the Iwi Management Plan, although activities may be considered permitted within the coastal environment, there may be adverse effects on the landscape and areas of cultural significance.

'Building activities need to be considered in terms of the surrounding landscape. In the Kaikōura area, Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura seeks to avoid

compromising, as consequence of residential development, the natural and cultural values associated with certain places.'

The policies and issues raised in the Iwi Management Plan relate to encouraging development and growth of the town, but managing it so that the cultural landscape is maintained, and the public can be informed of the significance of area.

Furthermore, the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement, policy 2, provides guidance for implementing Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Guidance provided by Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura in their input prior to the drafting of the plan recommended co-ordination with iwi for input on potential designs and information on history of the reserve.

1.8. New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement

The NZCPS 2010 has provided Council's with the guidance for development and use of land within the Coastal Environment, which align with some of the objectives and policies referred to in the Kaikōura District Plan.

The NZCPS list the following objectives:

1. To safeguard the integrity, form, functioning and resilience of the coastal environment and sustain its ecosystems, including marine and intertidal areas, estuaries, dunes and land.
2. To preserve the natural character of the coastal environment and protect natural features and landscape values.
3. To take account of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, recognise the role of tangata whenua as kaitiaki and provide for tangata whenua involvement in management of the coastal environment.
4. To maintain and enhance the public open space qualities and recreation opportunities of the coastal environment.
5. To ensure that coastal hazard risks taking account of climate change are managed.

6. To enable people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing and their health and safety, through subdivision, use, and development.
7. To ensure that management of the coastal environment recognises and provides for New Zealand's international obligations regarding the coastal environment, including the coastal marine area.

2. Vision/Direction

The intended future and direction for the Kaikōura Esplanade Recreation Reserve, provided by Council, has been to enable enhanced and mixed-use of the area, whilst maintaining and managing the Reserve appropriately for the public to enjoy.

3. Objectives and Policies

3.1. Recreation

The Reserves Act 1977 states that reserves classified as recreation reserves, for the purpose of providing areas for the recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreation activities.

In the context of this document, open space is defined as: xyz

3.1.1. Objectives

- a) Provide for the existing and future recreational activities, whilst maintaining an anticipated level of amenity for the surrounding environment
- b) Ensuring the playground and facilities are maintained and upgraded to ensure public enjoyment.

c) Provide for amenities available to the public which enhance the district.



The South-East end of the Reserve looking North towards the playground and former pool



The current toilet and changing room facility from the beach/coastal environment



The Reserve Playground, looking towards the South-East end of the reserve



View from the Northern boundary point where the pathway stops, looking toward the old pool site

3.1.2. Policies

- a) Manage development of the reserve in accordance with community needs.
- b) To recognise the Recreation Reserve as an important part of the network of recreational facilities in the Kaikōura Esplanade area.
- c) Support community initiatives to increase local self-sufficiency (picnic areas, bathrooms, community facilities, etc).

3.2. Use and Development

The uses and development of the Reserve is important to consider, ensuring that it remains available to the public and encourages the sustainable use of the reserve.

3.2.1. Objectives

- a) Enable mixed use of the reserve without sacrificing the enjoyment of the reserve.
- b) Continue to use the reserve as a community focal point
- c) Provide for a range of uses year-round
- d) Encourage development and uses to consider Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Principles (CPTED)
- e) The Reserve shall be managed to ensure the coastal character and amenity is enhanced and maintained.

3.2.2. Policies

- a) New development will be designed to meet the needs of existing users and be future proofed to facilitate multiple uses
- b) Design and characteristics of any proposed structures and layout shall implement CPTED principles and be approved by the administering body.
- c) Any proposed buildings shall be consistent with the height control area along the waterfront of Esplanade.
- d) The Reserve is maintained to an appropriate standard.

Actions to implement

A decision shall be made for the use of the pool site and surrounding area to enable any redevelopment and the space be utilised to its full potential.

3.3. Environment

Consideration of the environment is not particularly related to the immediate and physical environment but also may consider the cultural and social factors of the environment. There are some documents already in place to support this, such as the National Coastal Policy Statement and the iwi management plan

3.3.1. Objectives

- a) Manage existing vegetation and encourage planting of indigenous vegetation
- b) Quality of environment to be maintained
- c) Integration of cultural design
- d) Encourage sustainable waste management

3.3.2. Policies

- a) Co-ordination with Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura for input for design
- b) Encourage building design that does not detract from the surrounding environment.

3.4. Rentals and Leases

To enable for utilisation of the area and provide for enhanced use of the reserve, rentals and leases are an important aspect. Rentals and Leases can enable community supporting activities. The objectives and policies will ensure that public recreation is retained and moderated.

3.4.1. Objectives

- a) To require leases, or a similar arrangement, to be established where organisations have erected or intend to erect a building on the reserve.

Section 54 allows the Council to lease any area set apart under s 53(1)(h) for baths to any person or body. A lease “may require the lessee to construct, develop, control, and manage the baths ... or other facilities for public recreation or enjoyment”. Schedule 1 provides guidance of buildings/structures that may be constructed including any fixing of admission charges.

Note: Although the Reserve Management Plan and Reserves Act 1977 may provide for the potential of activities to take place, it does not withhold the requirement for a resource consent if an activity is not permitted under the Operative Kaikōura District Plan or other Council Policies, Plans and Bylaws.

- b) Enable opportunities for potential development that support the economic, social and cultural development of the community that could be commercial in nature and/or is financially self-supporting.

Such leases, rentals, development or use of the reserve could range from:

- i) Mobile shops, and outdoor dining
 - ii) Use by approved buskers and hawkers
 - iii) Sporting and/or educational events
 - iv) Activities or development of hot pools, or other aquatic amenities.
- c) The nature and amenity of the reserve shall be utilised to its fullest extent but managed appropriately to ensure use of the reserve.

3.4.2. Policies

- a) The Kaikōura District Council may charge a fee for the use of any part of the Kaikōura Recreation Reserve where the user gains a special benefit that is not available to other domain users, or where there are costs to the Council associated with a particular event.
- b) No less than 40% of the Reserve shall be reserved for open space use.
- c) Rentals and leases shall be supportive of the community

3.5. Accessibility and Information

Due to the nature of Reserves and the significance of the area, it is important to ensure the public access and enjoyment of the Reserve is retained. The reserve is of social and cultural significance, therefore, information gathered with Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura and other community stakeholders can help educate and inform visitors to the reserve about the significance of the area.

3.5.1. Objectives

- a) Manage public access into the reserve in a way that seeks to protect existing values whilst catering for enhanced mixed use opportunities
- b) To provide sufficient signage to facilitate public use and enjoyment of the outdoor recreational environment.
- c) Provide information of the significance and history of the Reserve.

3.5.2. Policies

- a) The number and size of signs in the reserve shall be kept to a minimum to avoid visual detracting from the “natural” environment, give clear positive guidance to assist public enjoyment, and may provide interpretive information of areas of interest and/or historical importance.

- b) All development within the reserve shall be designed to be accessible to all people.
- c) Engage with Community organisations to provide informative and safety signage for the reserve
- d) Ensure that signs are compliant with Councils Signs Bylaw

- Signs Bylaw
- Dog Control Bylaw
- Trading in Public Places Policy
- Structures, Works and Items in Public Places Bylaw
- Canterbury Regional Policy Statement
- Traffic and Parking Bylaw
- New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement
- Smoke Free Public Places Policy

Actions to implement

- The Council will work with the Community to provide information for areas of interest and/or historical importance in association with mana whenua/hapū.

3.6. Other

3.6.1. Objectives

- a) Prevent adverse effects from Hazardous Substances on the environment or the community.
- b) Provide for and encourage community initiatives and events
- c) Mitigate for the effects of climate change and rising sea levels.

3.6.2. Policies

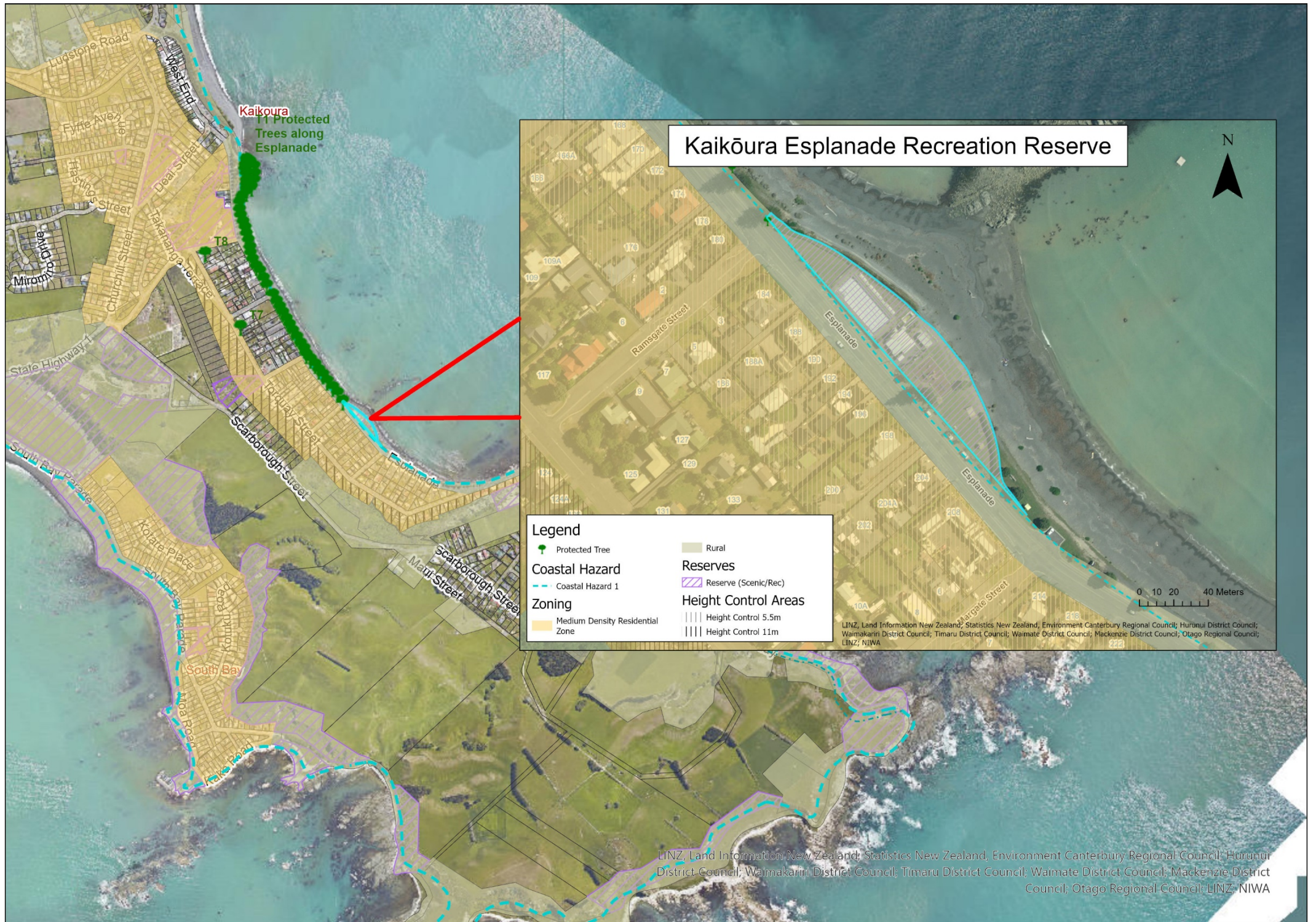
- a) Avoid using land affected by Hazardous Substances where community health could be affected.
- b) Community initiatives and events will be supported appropriately to ensure the Reserve is utilised.
- c) Any new structures/activities provided at the Reserve will be designed with consideration of potential threats as a consequence of climate change.

Other Relevant Plans, Policies and Bylaws

- Kaikōura District Plan
- Current Annual Plan
- Current Long-Term Plan
- Waste Management Protocol

Appendix 1
Maps





Kaikōura
 T1 Protected Trees along Esplanade

T8

Kaikōura Esplanade Recreation Reserve



Legend

Protected Tree	Rural
Coastal Hazard 1	Reserve (Scenic/Rec)
Medium Density Residential Zone	Height Control Areas
	Height Control 5.5m
	Height Control 11m

LINZ, Land Information New Zealand; Statistics New Zealand, Environment Canterbury Regional Council; Hurunui District Council; Waimakariri District Council; Timaru District Council; Waimate District Council; Mackenzie District Council; Otago Regional Council; LINZ; NIWA

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