







Open Space Strategy 2015–2025 July 2014







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This Strategy has no status under legislation and is only a guidance document for Council actions and for other documents prepared under the Local Government Act 2002, Reserves Act 1997 and Resource Management Act 1991.

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Thanks are given to representatives of partner agencies who contributed advice to the planning process.

Tiakina te Taiao completed a Māori Cultural Impact Assessment for the Tasman District Council Reserves General Policies and parts of this have been included in this Strategy in Appendix 2.

Tasman District Council Open Space Strategy 2015 – 2025

Foreword

Open spaces are an intrinsic part of any community. Our open spaces play a vital role in making Tasman an attractive place to live, work and play. Many people choose to live in the Tasman region because of its "lifestyle" – open spaces and the quality of life benefits that these natural and recreational areas offer.

It has long been recognised that open spaces are important for our wellbeing, providing recreation, health, economic, utility, environmental, active transport, cultural, resilience and aesthetic benefit . Open spaces are a great equaliser, providing benefits regardless of age, socio-economic status, location or ethnicity.

In developing this Open Space Strategy, pre-consultation was undertaken with open space providers and key stakeholders including the Department of Conservation, Ministry of Education and iwi. I'd like to thank all of them for contributing to the Strategy so that we could provide a fulsome picture of the open spaces available in the Tasman District and the efforts being undertaken in our community to develop, maintain and enhance our open spaces for the betterment of our community.

A community survey was also undertaken prior to the development of the Draft Strategy. Over 240 people contributed valuable information on their use of open spaces within the Tasman District, the value of open spaces to them, and how the Council can better manage and provide for those values. Additionally, a number of agencies and individuals gave feedback on the draft Strategy that were helpful in facilitating this final document.

Gensler (2011) described open space as 'an asset without a champion' – but we seek to change that. This is our opportunity to champion the values of our open spaces.

The Open Space Strategy will assist Council in reviewing levels of services, zoning or acquiring land, working with volunteer organisations to protect or enhance areas, and in our own planning processes such as the review of reserve management plans, the Long Term Plan and Tasman Resource Management Plan.

We must look to the future and make wise and thoughtful provision for the generations to come.

Councillor Judene Edgar

Chair Community Development



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1. Introduction

The Tasman District includes a wonderful array of natural and recreation settings, with three national parks, a long and varied coastline, a suite of inland waterways and a well-developed network of urban and peri-urban parks and reserves. Recreation linkages between these settings are expanding and our understanding and management of our natural resources is improving. Provision and management of open space areas plays a vital role in the quality of life enjoyed by residents and visitors.

Population growth and tourism in Tasman lead to more people wanting access to open space areas. The development and protection of the open space network and improvements to the quality of open space is therefore increasingly important.

Open spaces, for the purposes of this Strategy, include all of the parks, reserves, cycleways, walkways, cemeteries, beaches, rivers, lakes and other areas in Tasman that our residents and visitors use for recreation. as well as natural areas that we value for environmental reasons. This Strategy does not consider developed roads and streets, and civic areas in town centres. Further, only the non-competitive uses of sports fields are considered. These settings are considered in other planning processes implemented by Council.

The intent of this Strategy is to help maximise the benefit the environment, residents and visitors gain from Council's investment in the District's open spaces by responding to changes in demand resulting from population growth and age profiles, as well as seeking to better link existing areas of open space for improved ecological values and recreation access. The Strategy also aims to make the most of Council's relationships with other providers and managers of open spaces (such as the Department of Conservation and Ministry of Education), and the many volunteer agencies which work to protect and enhance our natural resources and improve access to recreation settings.

Various issues need consideration, such as:

- Is the open space located in the right place and does it have the right level of public access?
- Is it being used appropriately?
- Are its natural and cultural heritage qualities being adequately protected?
- Are the correct facilities provided?
- How will Council manage the provision of open space as demand changes and grows?

These are the key questions that this Strategy seeks to understand.

The Tasman District Council (Council) is a unitary authority, which means that it carries out the functions and duties of both a territorial and regional authority. Many regional authorities in other parts of New Zealand administer large regional parks, often in rural settings, while territorial authorities provide the local and sports parks. In Tasman, the Council is responsible for both types of open space (at the local and regional levels), while the Department of Conservation (DOC) manages areas which are generally of national significance for natural and recreational values. However, there are a range of other agencies which administer land that support open space values in the District, and DOC is also interested in identifying and protecting a representative range of natural habitats at the regional level. This Strategy seeks to help coordinate these interests, and to clarify Council's regional and local roles.

1. Introduction

1.1. How has this Strategy been prepared and what is it?

This Strategy is informed by:

- A desktop stocktake of Council's approaches to open space management and a review of the activities of relevant land and activity management agencies in the District, as well as Nelson City Council. This background document is available as a separate report (Tasman District Council Open Space Strategy, Summary of Existing Provision, 2014).
- Targeted consultation with other land management agencies and volunteer and advocacy groups.
- A survey of opinions and activities of Tasman District residents via an online and hard copy questionnaire. The results of this survey are used in the body of the Strategy, and all data are provided in Appendix

 It is important to note that as respondents to the questionnaire were self-selected the results are not representative of the opinions of residents in any statistical sense. Rather, they provide an overview of important issues relating to open space values and uses.
- · Consultation with iwi.
- Internal review by Council staff and Councillors.
- Public feedback on a draft version of this Strategy.

This is a non-statutory document. This means that it has not been prepared in accordance with or as a requirement of any Act of Parliament, unlike reserve management plans and the Tasman District Council Reserves General Policies (prepared under the Reserves Act 1977). This Strategy is intended to provide clarity within Council, and for ratepayers and other land management agencies, about how Council intends to support efficient and effective open space management activities and relationships.

Further detail on Council's statutory responsibilities for open space management can be found in its plans and policies prepared under the Reserves Act, its activity management plans and long-term plans prepared under the Local Government Act, and its resource management policies set out in the Tasman Resource Management Plan (TRMP) prepared under the Resource Management Act.

This Strategy is expected to guide Council over a tenyear period (2015–2025) but may be reviewed at any time as required. Council staff will report annually on their progress on the actions detailed in this Strategy.

The Strategy is a companion document to the Tasman District Council Reserves General Policies which also seeks to maximise the value gained from Council's management of public open space.





2. What is Open Space?







3. Why is Open Space **Important?**

Open space plays a vital role in making Tasman a great place to live, work and play. The Tasman District Council is keenly aware that many people live in Tasman region because of its open space values and the quality of life benefits that these natural and recreation areas offer. The intent of this Strategy is to help ensure that the Council supports the provision of these resources as effectively and efficiently as possible.

This Strategy is not all about land beyond residential or city boundaries. The urban and 'peri-urban' environments are important settings for achieving public open space objectives. Peri-urban settings are those within easy reach of residents from urban settings – normally by cycling or walking – and often on the fringe of a town or city, but also within a short driving distance.

A national study for Sport NZ into peri-urban recreation¹ identified that:

- There is substantial latent demand for the experiences that peri-urban open space settings can provide, particularly in the area of cycling for all age groups and abilities.
- A lack of inter-agency cooperation and coordination in providing open space settings limits our ability to provide better spaces,
- There is high competition for use and development of prime accessible recreation settings,
- Accessible peri-urban open space settings provide a stepping stone for participation in more remote and challenging recreation activities and greater affiliation with natural environments.

These same issues can be applied to the management of environmental values. Several steps were suggested for future peri-urban planning and investment:

- Balancing amenity and conservation with economic development to help prioritise greenways, open spaces, public coastal accesses, bush trails, and other spaces that are likely to support peri-urban recreation activities.
- Planning for future demand based on population growth and preferences for different activities.
- Planning for diversity, including young and old, families and individuals, people from all socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds.
- Inter-agency and inter-organisational collaboration for better peri-urban recreation outcomes and improved efficiencies within onstrained funding environments.
- Meeting the requirements of local communities and visitors with good transport connections, amenity, free access, safe environments and quality outdoor experiences.

Consultation carried out for this Strategy indicates that these issues and opportunities, as well as improvements to water quality, also apply to the Tasman District, and that they also apply to the management of natural and cultural heritage values.

Synergia (2013) Opportunities and Challenges for peri-Urban Recreation in New Zealand's Fastest Growing Cities. Research report for Sport NZ.

3. Why is Open Space Important?

3.1. Why do we value open space?

There has been much published about the values of open space, recreation and natural values and environments. Many of these are values described as 'non-market' attributes, which means that it is very difficult to put a price on them, and to exchange them for some other item of value. This does not mean that attempts to price open space have not been made.

In 2011 Sport NZ released several reports on the economic value of sport and recreation, identifying that its contribution (including volunteered services) to national gross domestic product (GDP) in 2008/09 was more than \$5.2 billion, or 2.8 per cent.² When social and personal benefits (some of the non-market values) were included, the national total value more than doubled to around \$12.2 billion. For the Tasman/Nelson/Marlborough regions, a very conservative estimated economic contribution from the sport and recreation sector was \$197 million or 3.8 per cent of regional GDP (including volunteered services). However, this does not include any assessment of the value of ecosystem services provided by open space (such as clean water for drinking and irrigation), and tourism. The Department of Conservation estimated in 2004 that the Abel Tasman National Park's annual economic output from visitor activities was \$45 million - which would add almost 20% to the Sport NZ figure for the combined Tasman/Nelson/Marlborough region.

In 2006 the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Commission on Protected Areas identified a list of 55 different values gained from protected areas of land and sea. The 55 values were listed under five main categories: economic, environmental, personal, community and cultural values. Other studies into the social and personal values gained from experiencing open spaces such as the Beneficial Outcomes Approach³-identify hundreds of different forms of value, from learning to share to increased lung capacity. Health agencies have published many texts on the benefits of exercise and access to open space - many of which relate to better economic performance (lower health costs and improved employment outputs), but which also focus on general quality of life gains.

The following principle open space values have been considered in this strategy. However, it is acknowledged that these values and our open spaces generally, also contribute economic, utility (such as water supply) and many social and personal health benefits to the community.

Recreation: Places for active sport and recreational activities, passive recreation and quiet reflection; and places that provide opportunities for us to learn and develop as people. This use benefits residents and visitors to the District and includes controlled commercial tourism activities.

Landscape: Places that protect the visual beauty and diversity of our landscapes.

Natural Heritage: Places that protect the quality of our environment and our special natural habitats and ecosystems and provide opportunities for us to experience, learn and enjoy them, either by visiting them, or knowing that they are protected.

Historic and Cultural Heritage: Places that protect our special cultural and historic structures and places, and provide opportunities for us to experience, learn and enjoy these, either by visiting or knowing that they are protected.

Resilience: Places and processes that assist communities to reduce their exposure to environmental and social risks – such as extreme weather events and climate change – and to be ready to respond to and withstand adverse events, and to recover over time.

This Strategy identifies specific actions for natural and historic heritage values, landscape and resilience. Other proposed actions relate to maintaining the quality and quantity of open space, as well as the community partnerships which support all the values. These latter three aspects of open space management (quality, quantity and partnerships) support outcomes related to recreation.

The Tasman District Council Reserves General Polices refers to the management of utility services and other commercial activities on land managed as reserves, and reference should be made to these Policies if the management of additional or complementary open space values require

A single reserve or open space area may provide for and protect many of these values to varying degrees. The objective of this Strategy is for the whole open space network to provide an adequate range and distribution of open space values across the whole District in order to maintain and enhance our quality of life now and in the future.

See: www.sportnz.org.nz

Booth, K.L., Driver, B.L., Espiner, S.R., and Kappelle, R.J., 2002. Managing Public Conservation Lands by the Beneficial Outcomes Approach with Emphasis on Social Outcomes. Department of Conservation Science Internal Series 52. Department of Conservation, Wellington.



4. Where Are We Now?

This section reviews, at a high level, some of the key aspects of the type, quality and quantity of open spaces in Tasman. Some data are provided about the District, and some summary results of a 2014 survey into Tasman's open space uses and satisfaction (full results are included in Appendix 1). Important open space issues facing each Ward in Tasman are also discussed.

People appreciate and enjoy a wide range of values and opportunities provided by Tasman District's open space network, including: recreation, community and social gatherings, culture and heritage protection, landscape protection and natural values and ecosystem services.

Tasman's open space network also protects ecosystems, maintains water quality in freshwater and marine environments, supports ecosystem resilience and enables people to encounter native plants and animals in their natural habitats.

4.1. District overview

The Tasman District covers 9,771 square kilometres of land, of which two-thirds (approximately 6,420 square kilometres) is open space with some form of protection or public administration. The District has approximately twice the national average area of protected land. The vast majority (over 98%) is managed by the Department of Conservation. The Tasman District Council administers approximately 850 hectares of parks, reserves and cemeteries, while the Ministry of Education provides approximately 211 hectares of school grounds (including those areas covered by buildings). A further 2,412 hectares of private land is protected by QEII covenants, and 53 hectares is administered by Agricultural & Pastoral Associations (A & P Associations). Just over 105 hectares is protected as esplanade reserves and marginal strips. The Walking Access Commission estimates that the District has 2,700 kilometres of unformed legal road. The Council has 947 kilometres of sealed road and 765 kilometres of gravel road. There are also 328 kilometres of State Highway administered by the NZ Transport Agency within the District.

Land Information NZ (LINZ) and the Wakatu Incorporation also own and administer lands with open space values, while private forestry companies administer public easements for recreation. The coastal marine area is not included in these figures.

Maps 1 – 5 in Appendix 4 illustrate and summarise the extent of open space areas within each Ward.

4.2. Coastal Marine Area

Tasman's coastal marine area extends from the Kahurangi Lighthouse in the south-west to Champion Road (Richmond) in the north-east. Including the seabed, the coastal marine area extends seaward from the mean high water mark out to the 12 nautical mile territorial limit. This covers a coastline of approximately 725 kilometres and includes many estuaries and inlets.

There is a general right to navigate across the coastal marine area. The Tasman District Council Navigation Bylaw sets out safe practices for people using the coastal marine area for water skiing, swimming, boating, kayaking or other water activities. The TRMP contains rules which control other activities in the coastal marine area. There are a limited number of permitted activities, and the bar for granting resource consent for activities not anticipated by the Plan is high.

There are a number of marine reserves administered by the Department of Conservation within Tasman's coastal marine area. These provide the highest level of marine protection, generally prohibiting harvesting or human intervention.

We associate many values with the coastal marine area, including social, natural and economic values and other ecosystem services and values, including landscape, recreation, heritage and cultural values and activities. Aquaculture, tourism and fishing are important commercial uses, and there is a strong relationship between the quality of these, and all other marine ecosystem services, and land management practices, particularly those resulting in the release of sediment into the coastal marine area.

4.3. Golden Bay Ward

The Golden Bay Ward contains significant open space areas including large areas of upland hill country and mountain areas within Kahurangi and Abel Tasman National Parks managed by the Department of Conservation. There are also large areas of recreation and ecological linkages provided by esplanade reserves and unformed legal roads, with much of this being foreshore areas, managed by the Council.

The accessibility of neighbourhood reserves within the residential zones is good. No gaps in provision exist within the Takaka and Collingwood residential areas and the Pohara/Ligar Bay/Tata Beach residential areas, with the exception of the small area around Selwyn Street at Pohara. In this location there is foreshore adjacent to this residential enclave which provides some open space in the absence of a formal reserve.

Council reserves are at or above the target level for accessible open spaces within residential areas (a neighbourhood park within 500m of dwellings in residentially zoned areas). However, the Collingwood Area School, Golden Bay High and Takaka Primary Schools, and to a lesser extent the Motupipi School, supplement this provision with larger open space areas, some of which are used for formal as well as informal recreation activities.

4.4. Lakes – Murchison Ward

The Lakes Murchison Ward is similarly characterised by significant open space areas including large areas of upland hill country and mountain areas within Kahurangi and Nelson Lakes National Parks and other Conservation Areas managed by the Department of Conservation. Other open space areas include extensive areas of riverbed and riparian areas and smaller amenity, local purpose and neighbourhood reserves and domains within the settlements of St Arnaud, Tapawera and Murchison.

The accessibility of neighbourhood reserves within the residential zones is good. There is a small gap at the southern end of Fairfax St in Murchison, which will become more important to provide if residential expansion occurs in this area in the future. There are no gaps in provision at St Arnaud if the areas managed by the Department of Conservation are taken into account. The amount of open space within the residential area at Tapawera exceeds the desired levesl of service, with the Tapawera Area School grounds also providing a large area of valuable community open space as part of the overall provision.

Tasman's Great Taste Trail is planned to be extended into this Ward to create a loop trail from Wakefield, via the Spooner's Tunnel, through to Tapawera and Motueka. The Trail is currently well used in the Richmond, Moutere -Waimea and Motueka Wards and the completion of the loop will eventually provide recreational opportunities for residents and visitors to the Lakes - Murchison Ward.

The extensive public conservation land within the Lakes -Murchison Ward is accessed by visitors via Council roads (with the exception of the Mt Robert Road, which is provided by DOC.

Some areas of Crown forest in the Ward contain a number of protective covenants and public access easements.

4.5. Motueka Ward

Open space within the Motueka Ward follows a similar pattern of extensive public conservation land on the hill country both within Abel Tasman National Park from Torrent Bay south to Kaiteriteri and within Kahurangi National Park inland of Riwaka through to Mt Campbell. A number of foreshore reserves are present which are managed by Council and the Department of Conservation. The coastal environment from Jacket Island north, including the Moutere Inlet and Motueka Sandspit and foreshore, are significant natural and recreation resources. The Wakatū Incorporation owns a number of landholdings in within the Ward which provide open space values, and some coastal and river margins.

A recent development within the Ward is the extension of Tasman's Great Tasman Trail from Motueka through to Kaiteriteri. Counter data collected for the period January -March 2014 confirms the popularity of this trail with over 3,500 bikes recorded per month.

The accessibility of neighbourhood reserves within the residential zones is adequate. However, with recent subdivision to the north west of Motueka on Parker Street there is an increasing need for additional provision in this area. Existing residential areas in the

vicinity of the Motueka aerodrome (which is not all available for general public recreation) is also beyond 500m from a public open space area. Provision in Riwaka is acceptable given the nature of the residential area. Kaiteriteri and Stephens Bay are also well covered when the publicly accessible parts of the Kaiteriteri Domain and Kaka Point are taken into account. Following the recent purchase of a reserve in Newhaven Crescent, Marahau now has good open space provision. However, there is a shortage of reserve land along the front road skirting the foreshore.

4.6. Moutere – Waimea Ward

The Moutere Waimea Ward comprises large areas of coastal land managed by Council including areas on the margin of the Waimea and Moutere Inlets (including Rabbit Island recreation area) and coastal margins at Mapua and Ruby Bay (including the recently acquired Dominion Flats Reserve, LEH Baigent Reserve (Kina) and Hoddy Estuary Park). The Ward is also bounded by public conservation land behind the Motueka River west bank including the Graham Valley Road which provides access to the Mt Arthur car park within Kahurangi National Park. On the eastern side of the Ward, Council and the Department of Conservation provide various reserves adjoining the Lee and Wairoa rivers, as well as access into the public conservation land of Mt Richmond Forest Park.

Much of the lower reaches of the Waimea River are contained within the Waimea River Park. This land was acquired for 'River Control Purposes' and is owned freehold by Council and available for public use.

The accessibility of neighbourhood reserves within the residential zones is adequate. Brightwater and Wakefield have several reserves as well as the extensive Snowdens and Faulkner Bush Reserves nearby, plus the schools grounds for use after hours. Upper Moutere has the recreation centre and grounds in reasonably close proximity to the settlement.

The majority of Tasman's Great Tasman Trail occurs within the Ward with the sections between Richmond and Mapua and Richmond and Wakefield now fully operational. These sections have proved extremely popular.

4.7. Richmond Ward

The Richmond Ward has open spaces centred around urban neighbourhood reserves, sportsfields and gardens. Beyond the urban area, reserves and other public open spaces exist on the margins of the Waimea River, Waimea Inlet, Richmond Hills and Aniseed Valley. The majority of these reserves are owned and maintained by the Council with the exception of public conservation land within the Hacket catchment and the confluence with the Aniseed River.

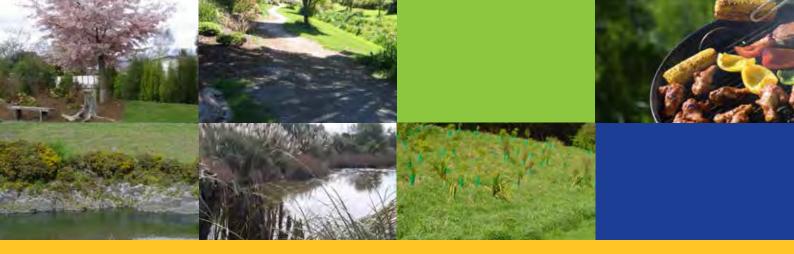
The accessibility of reserves within the residential zones is adequate. However, a number of these are esplanade reserves such as Reservoir Creek, which may not meet required desired levels of service in terms of area of usable land for neighbourhood reserve provision.

Schools in Richmond assist in providing larger open space areas for the community to use and enjoy after school hours.

Planned intensification of the residential area may lead to the review of how open space is delivered, with a focus on how the development of existing (and any new reserves) can better provide for a wider range of uses, rather than simply purchasing additional reserve land.

The public conservation land within the Richmond Ward, primarily the Hacket Valley, is accessed by visitors via the Aniseed Valley Road.

A number of riparian margins have been protected through the creation of esplanade and other reserves as a result of subdivision and other developments. Many of these have the potential to link the Richmond Hills and the Waimea Inlet over time. Opportunities will arise in the future for these existing reserves to be further extended and linked to provide a valuable urban recreational resource, as well as an effective means of enhancing biodiversity and protecting water quality.



5. Where Are We Going, What Are We Doing?

The Tasman District is projected to grow faster than the national average, and experience an aging population, as is the case with much of the country. The District has a higher relative share of the population in lower income bands. This suggests that accessible, low cost and plentiful recreation opportunities will remain important for the District in the future.

Swimming activity in the Tasman District was surveyed by Council in 2011. This study identified the scale of activity at many river and coastal sites, with, for example, an estimated 115,000 people swimming in the Waimea catchment between 17 December and 27 February 2011. The number of swimmers on the peak day in the Waimea catchment (6 February 2011) was estimated at 4,000. Rabbit Island Main Beach and Kaiteriteri Beach stood out strongly as being the most popular coastal beaches, as well as the Mapua, Ruby Bay, Kina and Motueka beaches.

In early 2014, Council carried out a survey of community use and interest in open space to support the preparation of this Strategy. The results are included as Appendix 1 to this document. Respondents were self-selected and so are not representative of all Tasman residents, and include respondents from Nelson city. The results give some indication of the main expectations and experiences of uses of open space in Tasman.

The survey showed that respondents were more active than the population generally, which is not surprising considering the self-selection method used. When compared with regionally representative data gathered by Sport NZ, the levels of participation in active recreation by respondents to the Council study were far higher, with,

for example, 40% of residents of the Sports Tasman region swimming anywhere (pools, lakes and the sea), while 66% of survey respondents swam in the sea. Horse riders were over-represented in the Council survey by a factor of 10, trampers by a factor of 3.5, runners by 2.7 and cyclists by 1.8.

Walking, swimming, fishing and cycling were the most important activities identified in both the Council survey and in Sport NZ data. The Council survey showed that open spaces are also commonly used for picnics, passive enjoyment and playing with children. However, the survey data shows that each respondent named an average of just over seven different uses of open spaces, indicating that open spaces are often used for many reasons by the same people.

Walkways and cycleways were the most frequently visited setting with 44% of respondents using them once a week or more. Beaches had a similar level of use, with 40% of respondents visiting weekly. Local or neighbourhood parks, although probably the most accessible open space setting considered by the study, were visited less frequently than rural recreation settings (44% visited 1 to 2 times a month or more frequently, compared with 57%). Rivers were also popular (54% visited 1 to 2 times a month or more frequently). The questionnaire did not include

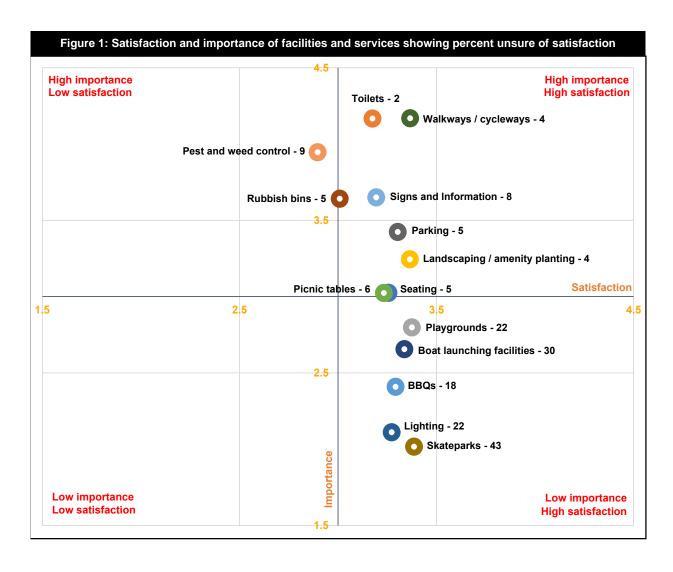
5. Where Are We Going, What Are We Doing?

respondents under the age of 15 and so the data for, importantly, school grounds and neighbourhood parks, excludes most school-age respondents. However 52% of respondents indicated that they used school grounds at least 1 to 2 times a year. Sports fields were more likely to be used for non-sport activities by respondents (58% never used them for sport compared with 28% using them for non-sport activities). Cemeteries were the least likely to be visited weekly, with 45% of respondents visiting a cemetery at least annually.

Respondents were asked to name the areas of open space in the Tasman District they used, and to identify who they thought managed those areas. Rabbit Island was by far the most frequently identified site, used by 49% of respondents. The three national parks combined rivalled this, however, with 55% of respondents using at least one of them.

Figure 1 shows the relationship between survey respondent's view of the importance of certain

facilities and their satisfaction with their management and provision. Facilities in the top right quarter were considered, on average, important and respondents were satisfied with their provision. Those in the top left were considered important, but had low satisfaction, on average. Those in the bottom right had high satisfaction but were considered, on average, of low importance. However, with regard to the latter quarter, these assets had a relatively high percentage of respondents who were unsure of their satisfaction levels and were therefore unlikely to have used it, and would have naturally given the facility a lower importance rating. Figure 1 shows the percent of respondents who were unsure about their satisfaction level (and who gave no satisfaction rating) after each facility label. Those with low importance ratings had high numbers of respondents who did not use that facility. Respondents were all aged over 14 years, and so representation of skate park and playground users will be very poor.



Pest and weed control had the lowest satisfaction levels and was considered important, while rubbish bins fell on the boundary between satisfaction and dissatisfaction. Most facilities and services had levels of satisfaction above the centre-point.

Respondents were asked what issues restricted them from using open spaces as much as they would like. While the prime restriction was personal – being too busy - the other issues related to use of a site: crowding, bad behaviour of others, too many commercial activities, and too much noise. However, the levels of restriction were relatively slight, with small percentages of respondents reporting that the issue 'mostly' or 'totally' restricted their participation.

When respondents were asked to list their favourite three things about the quality and quantity of open space in Tasman, the following attributes were commonly mentioned:

- The accessibility of open spaces was mentioned most often with 15% of comments about this. Spaces that are easily accessible from homes are important. Respondents mentioned accessibility for specific activities e.g. biking, walking, swimming, fishin, kayaking, as well as to specific environments e.g. beach, National Park, river, bush.
- The variety of different spaces was the next most often mentioned favourite aspect with 13% of comments. Respondents talked about the diversity of places to exercise, visit and recreate. This includes the coast and sea, bush, parks, gardens, cycle trails, rivers etc. The great variety of open space areas caters to a wide range of activities and is valued.
- For 10% of comments, the uncrowded environment was their favourite aspect. Open spaces are quiet and peaceful and there aren't too many people. Also, people liked low levels of commercial activity.
- The natural beauty of Tasman was mentioned in 10% of comments. Survey respondents mentioned the scenery and views of the mountains, landscape and beaches. They talked about a relatively unspoilt natural setting. They liked the open spaces, fresh air and the "get away from it all" feeling.

The good facilities (7% comments) and clean and tidy (5% comments) aspect was a favourite for many. Generally facilities were of a high standard, well maintained and in good condition. Mention was made of well-formed tracks, good BBQ and picnic areas, playgrounds and public gardens.

Respondents listed their three least-favoured things about Tasman's open spaces. These were the top concerns:

- Rubbish was cited as a concern in 12% of comments. This included there being insufficient rubbish bins and bins not being emptied in parks and reserves, as well as people dumping rubbish on roadsides. Comments about rubbish referenced dog and horse poo and freedom campers.
- Another 8% of comments were about weeds and pests. Infestations like old man's beard, blackberry, gorse, broom, possums, wasps and pine trees were mentioned. There was a feeling that more should be done to control weeds and pests.
- 7% of comments were about user conflicts. Comments were about different recreation user groups sharing spaces e.g. walkers/cyclists/horse riders. In some cases heavy use (crowding) and anti-social behaviour are related issues.
- Dogs attracted 7% of comments. The majority of comments in this group were from people who didn't like dog poo being left behind, dogs off leashes, owners flouting rules and out-of-control dogs. Also in this group were comments about the need to provide more areas for dogs.
- Anti-social behaviour was responsible for 7% of comments. Behaviours cited included: boy-racers and hoons, loud vehicles, trail bikes, irresponsible behaviour, noise, reckless motor boat use, graffiti vandalism and people not abiding by rules.

The presence of rubbish, the potential for diseasecausing organisms in water and other contributors to poor water quality, slime and poor water clarity were the greatest issues of concern identified in Council's 2011 survey of swimmers. However, respondents considered that current levels of contamination were low, and most respondents were inclined to pick up rubbish left by others at swimming sites.





6. Where Do We Want To Be?

6.1. Vision

Tasman is a wonderful place to live and visit. A key component – the region's comprehensive network of well-managed open spaces – is highly valued by residents and visitors alike.

6.2. Desired outcomes from the provision and management of open space

- The whole open space network provides an adequate range and distribution of open space values across Tasman District and a range of potential uses to maintain and enhance our quality of life, both now and in the future.
- Open space land management plans and processes developed and implemented by managers of the region's public lands are compatible and complementary, particularly those of the Department of Conservation, Ministry of Education, Tasman District Council, Nelson City Council and A&P Associations.
- Partnership programmes and support networks are operating for volunteer groups and other relevant national agencies (such as the NZ Walking Access Commission and Fish & Game NZ). Common open space management and development objectives are identified.
- Tasman District Council has excellent relationships with private land owners who provide or support significant public open space values, particularly Wakatu Incorporation and forestry companies. These agencies continue to support public open space values where such use is compatible with commercial land uses.

6. Where Do We Want To Be?

- Cultural values of Tasman's open space network are identified and appropriately protected and interpreted.
- Appropriate environmental indicators and targets are identified, and the relationship between good open space management and the attainment of targets is understood and progressed.
- Tasman District Council identifies and implements agreed, community-driven open space acquisition, development and management programmes via itsreserves, activity management and resource management plans (particularly the TRMP) and Long Term Plan.
- Management and provision of the open space network, including both public and private land, is effectively coordinated.

- Targeted efforts of all groups and individuals engaged in open space development and planning in Tasman is supported.
- An adequate open space network is secured over time, considering growing demands for recreation space, the need to maintain and improve environmental values, and the often limited opportunities to protect strategic land in perpetuity.
- Community expectations for environmental quality, including protecting regionally important ecosystems and landscapes, are supported.
- Careful use of open space in the region is promoted and managed, considering, in particular, cultural and environmental values and changing demographics. Modern open space and urban design principles are used to provide for the multiple use of open space, including for utility services – such as storm water management - and recreation, while sustaining natural values.

6.3. Strategic fit

The vision, values and outcomes identified in this Strategy align with the Council's vision, mission and the eight Community Outcomes identified through consultation for Council's Long Term Plan (LTP).

The Council's vision statement is "Thriving communities enjoying the Tasman lifestyle".

Its mission statement is "To enhance community wellbeing and quality of life".

Community Outcomes are the outcomes Council is working towards in order to promote community wellbeing. They reflect what Council and the community see as important for community well-being and they help to build a picture of the collective vision for the District's future - how members of the community would like Tasman District to look and feel in 10 years and beyond. They also inform Council decision-making and the setting of priorities. Open Space has an important role in supporting the achievement of these outcomes:

- **Outcome 1:** Our unique natural environment is healthy and protected.
- Outcome 2: Our urban and rural environments are pleasant, safe and sustainably managed.
- Outcome 3: Our infrastructure is safe, efficient and sustainably managed.
- Outcome 4: Our communities are healthy, resilient and enjoy their quality of life.
- Outcome 5: Our communities respect regional history, heritage and culture.

- Outcome 6: Our communities have access to a range of cultural, social, educational and recreational services.
- Outcome 7: Our communities engage with Council's decision-making processes.
- Outcome 8: Our developing and sustainable economy provides opportunities for us all.

The rationale and focus of these outcomes are defined in the Tasman District Council LTP.

Activity Management Plans, this Open Space Strategy, Reserves General Polices, Reserve Management Plans and the TRMP provide the policy framework for the acquisition, development and maintenance of public land as a means of achieving these outcomes.

In performing its role, Council must have particular regard to the contribution that core services make to its communities, including libraries, museums, reserves, recreational facilities, and other community infrastructure (Local Government Act 2002, Section 11A (e)).

Tasman's Open Space Strategy aims to support the achievement of the objectives, policies and desired outcomes for Council reserves and other publicly owned land, as specified in these high-level documents.



7. How Will We Get There?

This section identifies how the Tasman District Council will work to maintain and enhance the District's open space values.

7.1. Quantity of open space

The level of accessibility of open space is indicated by the survey results to be guite acceptable – although more provision of assets including cycleways and walkways were identified as desirable.

The existing levels of service for open space provision in Council's activity management plans and Reserves General Policies are considered appropriate. These are summarised in the Tasman District Council Open Space Strategy Summary of Existing Provision Report.

Current levels of service for the provision of open space are exceeded throughout most of the District. However, there are a few areas where residential intensification and the distance of some residents from reserves means that more provision may be required if these reasonably blunt targets remain the only measure of success. The cost of acquiring land in existing areas of development is often very high, and Council could consider alternative ways of ensuring residents have ready access to quality open spaces. For example:

The use of school grounds for recreation has not been included in the past as part of the Council's open space provision assessment, and should be in the future. However, there is no guarantee that school grounds will not be progressively occupied by school buildings as populations increase.

- Existing urban open space areas can be made more multi-functional in order to maximise their potential for use. The more exciting and attractive a setting is, the more likely residents will invest time to travel to it.
- Adding capacity and flexibility to existing areas of open space, by acquiring small areas of adjoining land, may provide a greater benefit than acquiring small, isolated and expensive areas of urban reserve.
- Providing better urban pedestrian and cycle access will increase the level of accessibility to all existing areas of urban open space, and is likely to provide greater benefits to more people than the addition of isolated pockets of urban reserve.
- The Tasman District is renowned for its peri-urban, rural and coastal areas of open space, and investing in these, rather than small urban reserves may provide greater benefit for all residents.

These options will be priority considerations for open space solutions in existing urban settings. In some cases, existing urban reserves are providing very little amenity due to land quality, their small size and poor location.

7. How Will We Get There?

Such parcels of land were acquired by Council as a reserve contribution when subdivision occurred, often in the 1970s and 1980s when less consideration was given to the real value of the land for recreation or ecological values. The sale of these parcels may provide funds for the development of other areas of open space in the same residential area. Such options should be explored in consultation with relevant local communities.

Tasman's Great Taste Trail has been, and continues to be, a significant investment by Council and other agencies in an important regional recreation asset.

In peri-urban and rural settings, reserve acquisition occurs largely on an ad hoc basis as subdivision occurs, and is guided by structure planning in newly zoned areas and minimum size standards. There are few examples where Council has placed designations on areas of private land to ensure a network connection. Borck Creek is one example where a designation intended largely for stormwater purposes will allow a future recreation and ecological connection from the "hills to the sea". Other such connections beside waterbodies are secured progressively on subdivision by the vesting of esplanade reserves or the creation of esplanade and access strips. The intention is that, over time (many decades), a complete network of protected waterbodies will result, along with extensive provision for recreation, at minimal cost.

Criteria to guide acquisition – whether by purchase or as a condition of a subdivision consent – will assist Council in:

- describing the priorities for taking esplanade reserves, strips and access strips under the TRMP,
- identifying further development of priority protection areas in Schedule 30A⁴ when the TRMP is revised,
- applying other land protection measures to achieve section 14.1.3.7 of the TRMP⁵ and the objectives of this Open Space Strategy.

The criteria below do not refer to the coastal marine area, where an average esplanade width of 20 metres adjoining the coastal marine area is usually provided for when allotments less than 4 hectares are created on subdivision. The level of compensation is a significant consideration for allotments greater than 4 hectares.

Securing access to and along waterbodies (waterways, lakes and wetlands) and the protection of conservation values will be considered where:

Public access (including for cycles in most circumstances) along waterbodies will enable communities to access waterbodies identified in Schedule 30A of the TRMP.

- Public access to and along waterbodies will provide access to recreation settings identified in Fish and Game Management Plans, Council Waterway Management Plans, and regionally and nationally important recreation settings identified in other regional resource assessment processes (such as the Rivers Value Assessment System (RiVAS)),
- Public access along waterbodies will enable access to and between important community assets, such as from communities to schools, from public roads or other forms of public access to reserves, and between waterbodies,
- Environmental protection is needed for waterbodies that are tributaries to or outlets of ecologically important wetlands and estuaries, particularly for inanga spawning,
- Environmental protection of waterbodies will link important / significant natural terrestrial areas with the coast or lakes, or waterbodies in Schedule 30A of the TRMP,
- Linkages can be provided between existing reserves, public roads (formed and unformed), and other enduring public access opportunities, where the proposed reserve provides the only, or an important, new off-road access option,
- Access can be provided for short distances (say, 100 metres) either side of the intersection between a waterbody and a legal road (formed or unformed), or any other form of enduring public access, where local recreation amenity values exist (potential for interaction with water, beaches, picnic sites, swimming holes or similar),
- Walkways and cycleways provided near and within urban areas where, although a linkage between existing public areas might not be achieved, a return trip can be achieved on both sides of a waterway which has good existing or potential recreation amenity values.

Land will not be acquired or protected where:

- The location is very isolated and there is a very low probability of demand for future access or benefit from the protection of conservation values,
- The cost of acquisition is prohibitive,
- Public health and safety concerns are apparent, or
- Asset ownership by Council would place it in a position of considerable financial or public liability.

This Schedule in the TRMP lists values for rivers and values for significant rivers within the Tasman District.

^{14.1.3.7} To identify, acquire, and manage land, including esplanade reserves and road reserves, to facilitate public access to water bodies and the coast.

Protection of environmental values and recreation opportunities can also be provided by partnerships with private agencies (via QEII covenants for example) and other charitable organisations. This provision is considered under "Partnerships" in this Strategy.

Land may be acquired by Council via a variety of methods, including: gifting (including as the result of public fund-raising), direct purchase, purchase using reserve contirbution funds (RFCs), negotiated agreement, and by the vesting of Crown land.

Actions: Open Space Quantity

Action	Period ⁶
 Where levels of service are not being met for the quantity of, and access to, urban areas of open space, consider alternatives to the acquisition of expensive and isolated pockets of land, including encouraging multiple-uses of, and better linkages to and between, existing open space areas. 	Ongoing
 Continue to support improved access to existing open space areas, such as via Tasman's Great Taste Trail, Borck Creek near Richmond, Hotham Street walkway in Murchison and within the Waimea River Park. 	Ongoing
3. Continue to protect riparian areas via the taking of esplanade reserves or strips under the TRMP.	Ongoing
4. Continue to review Schedule 30A and B and 36 A, B and C in the TRMP to include new data (such as that gathered via the River Values Assessment System (RiVAS)).	4 – 6 yrs
5. Where opportunities arise, apply the criteria for acquiring or protecting riparian areas where the rules for esplanade reserves and strips are not triggered under the TRMP.	Ongoing
6. Apply best practice approaches to reserve acquisition in new subdivisions as specified by the TRMP, the Reserves General Policies and engineering standards.	Ongoing
7. Where land acquisition opportunities are identified, priority will be given to areas which support a wide range of values, over those with only one or few values represented. For example, a land area with only natural heritage values and no or limited public access may best be held by the Department of Conservation or an environmental trust, or protected via a QEII covenant. Council's open space acquisition will be targeted at gaining as broad a range of benefits as possible, and will normally include a public access component. Where important natural values exist, temporary closure can be provided as part of an esplanade strip instrument under schedule 10 of the Resource Management Act 1991, or by managing activities according to the relevant reserve management plan.	Ongoing
8. As part of Council's Activity Management Planning and Long Term Planning processes, Council staff will identify surplus areas of open space from which resources can be redirected to priority developments.	1 – 3 yrs

⁶ Year 1 commences in the 2015/16 financial year.

7. How Will We Get There?

7.2. Quality of open space

Survey results and other satisfaction measures used by Council indicate that the quality of open space in Tasman is considered to be, in the main, very good. The survey indicated that pest and weeds, rubbish and dog control remain key areas for ongoing attention, with some minor issues around crowding and the behaviour of other users of open space. It is noted that these issues relate not only to land administered by Council, particularly for weed and pest management. Partnership programmes with other land management agencies and volunteer groups are key to securing enduring solutions to this problem.

Council's bylaws and Reserves General Policies apply to the control of dogs and other reserve uses, and these are regularly reviewed and consulted upon (for example the Tasman District Council Dog Control Bylaw is under review in 2014). These controls have a statutory basis. However, Council does not have a Reserves General Bylaw which would enhance Council's ability to control inappropriate use of reserves and dangerous and offensive behaviour.

Reserve Management Plans are required by the Reserves Act 1977. The Reserves General Policies indicates the review period for the Reserve Management Plans used by Council. These are prepared largely on a Ward basis, with specific plans for Rabbit Island, Tata Beach and Memorial Park. The plan review process relies heavily on public consultation about specific aspects of reserve management and development, and will be the prime means of addressing quality issues on a site-specific basis. The Reserves General Policies require that good urban design principles and development guidelines,

such as Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, and the effects of climate change, are taken into account.

Crowding, commercial activities, freedom camping and social problems in open spaces require a regional approach to their management. Users commonly move between open spaces administered by different agencies, and a management action by one agency may simply relocate a problem. The Department of Conservation's upcoming review of its Conservation Management Strategy will provide an appropriate forum for Council and the community to consider best practice for managing social and commercial issues at a regional

Otherwise, current levels of service set in Council's activity management plans are considered appropriate to maintain the existing quality of open spaces; noting the Council's interest in supporting community volunteer groups in their work on specific reserve-improvement projects.

State of the Environment research and reporting is carried out by Council as part of its regional council functions and responsibilities. Advice from this work indicates many areas where improvements to the quality of the natural environment can be made. These are considered in the Natural Heritage chapter of this Strategy.



Actions: Open Space Quality

Action	Period
9. Develop a Reserves General Bylaw to assist with the control of the inappropriate use of reserves.	1 – 3 yrs
 10. Complete the review of following reserve management plans: Rabbit Island Motueka Ward Reserves Memorial Park 	1 – 3 yrs
 11. Complete the review of following reserve management plans: Richmond Ward Reserves Moutere Waimea Ward Reserves Golden Bay Ward Reserves 	4 – 6 yrs
 12. Complete the review of following reserve management plans: Lakes Murchison Ward Reserves Tata Beach Reserves 	7+
13. Engage with DOC in the drafting of the revised Nelson / Marlborough Conservation Management Strategy to ensure a consistency of treatment of, especially, social issues and the commercial use of open space between Council and DOC-administered public land.	1 – 3 yrs
14. Review Council bylaws as they apply to reserves and other areas of open space, and the Reserves General Policies and proposed Reserves General Bylaw.	Ongoing
15. Review existing levels of service for maintenance of open space as defined in Council's activity management plans. Such a review will consider existing levels of service to be at least adequate, with the potential to reduce levels of service where there will be no loss of accessibility and amenity.	1 – 3 yrs
16. Support and assist in the coordination of volunteer activities as discussed under "Partnerships" in this Strategy.	Ongoing
17. Continue monitoring satisfaction with open space management from residents and visitors via site-specific and general population surveys (such as ParkCheck and Council's annual residents' satisfaction surveys).	Ongoing

7. How Will We Get There?

7.3. Natural heritage

The natural environment contributes a wide range of ecosystem values to the Tasman District - from improving and protecting water quality and landscape values to commercial tourism activities – as well as being important in its own right. The survey indicated that experiencing native plants and animals in their natural habitat is an important open space value for residents.

Although two thirds of the land in the District is protected as national park or reserve, there remains more work to be done to improve our natural environment, particularly around waterways and the coast. A large percentage of currently protected land comprises steeper hill country, upland and alpine beech forest and alpine areas.

Nationally, the level of natural heritage protection is poor. It has been estimated through the Land Environments of New Zealand (LENZ) classification system⁷, and satellite images from the Land Cover Database, as well as databases showing land tenure, that close to 468,000 hectares of unprotected native vegetation is in land environments reduced to less than 20 percent of their original extent. Research has shown that the rate of biodiversity loss increases dramatically when native vegetation cover drops below 20 percent of what it was before humans arrived; hence serious concerns exist with respect to probable further biodiversity loss in the future.

A biodiversity overview report commissioned by the Tasman District Council estimated that lowland forest ecosystems on private land occupy 110,700 hectares of Tasman District (about 12% of the total land area); this is mostly lowland beech forest (red, silver, black and hard beech) (73%), or beech forest (22%) containing significant amounts of podocarp and broadleaf. 8

There has been a significant loss of lowland forest, wetland and coastal habitats in the Tasman District, and those areas that remain have relatively low levels of protection. Tasman District also shows a recent history of significant loss of wetlands. Waimea has lost 90% of its wetland area, Golden Bay over 70% and West Coast and Abel Tasman over 30%.9 Of the wetlands remaining in 1999, only 8.4% were formally protected. Thus individual landowners have an important role to play in the conservation of these vital areas, and in their restoration or potential replacement. The extent to which remaining natural areas are legally protected is also poor.

Ecosystems with the highest proportion of unprotected land across all districts are:

- coastal dunes, flats and estuarine margins (including swamps, forest and shrubland);
- lowland swamps;
- riparian ecosystems, especially in lowland areas;
- lowland forests of all kinds;
- lowland shrublands;
- frost flat communities.

The Karst landscapes within the Tasman District are also important for their geological, ecological and recreation values. Forest clearance is now a much lower threat than it was during the period of settlement and development of the district. Private landowners now require resource consent to remove native forest. Indigenous forest is only able to be harvested without resource consent in limited circumstances if it:

- is located outside the Coastal Environment Area;
- has an approved sustainable forest management plan or permit (under Part IIIA of the Forests Act 1949) and a copy of the approved plan or permit has been lodged with the Council, or less than 0.2 hectares is removed over a three-year period; and
- it is located outside of a lowland alluvial site or on karst terrain.

The modification of other habitats is also less of an issue today as most activities are controlled and monitored.

Remaining forest and remnants of other natural areas on the lowlands tend to be small and relatively fragmented, do not have the same 'carrying capacity' for as wide a range of species, and are vulnerable to weed and pest damage (including grazing stock) and fire.

Extending, joining, legally protecting and enhancing these areas, in combination with ongoing weed and pest control, is essential to ensure the long term viability of the majority of these areas.

The LENZ system uses 15 climate, landform and soil variables to identify areas with similar environment or ecosystem character that can influen e the distribution of species.

Walls, G. Simpson, P. (2004) Tasman District Biodiversity Overview. Tasman District Council

Preece, J (2000) An Overview of The Freshwater Wetlands of Tasman District, Nelson, New Zealand

Specific ecological districts including Motueka, Moutere and Golden Bay have less than 40% of their important remaining natural areas formally protected and as such are priorities for protection efforts.

The coastal marine environment faces challenges, including sedimentation, habitat loss due to sea level rise and shoreline armouring, and bacterial contamination after heavy rain.10

Over the past decade there has been a significant increase in community support and action on programmes to tackle key predators: mustelids (stoats, ferrets and weasels) and rats on private land and public open space areas. This is encouraging for the future given ongoing funding constraints on central and local government and other agencies involved in open space provision and management.

Council recognises that DOC is the key repository of skills for the management of natural ecosystems and threatened species, although Council retains an important role via its regional council responsibilities (for water and air quality for example).

DOC is in the process of reviewing many of its activity areas. The DOC Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) for Nelson / Marlborough is due for review, with a 2014 target for starting this substantial project. DOC, via the CMS, will identify how it intends to manage its recreation and

natural resources of national significance, as well as identifying resources which are important at the regional level

Council has developed a number of resources to identify important natural settings which may require management and protection, and is progressively developing other management tools, such as catchment management plans (in accordance with its regional council responsibilities). These support both the management of storm water risks and in-stream and esplanade values (in the case of the catchment management plans) and the identification of remnant wetlands and means for their protection. The TRMP includes rules which protect many natural values on private land, including wetlands and areas of native vegetation. Council commissions a wide variety of independent environmental assessment and management reports, and works with private landowners to help secure postive environmental outcomes, particularly for water quality.

It is considered appropriate that Council works closely with DOC in the development of the CMS, rather than independently replicating a regional plan to manage natural heritage values. (As a first step, the term 'natural heritage' has been used in this Strategy to match the terms used by DOC in its planning work.)

Actions: Natural heritage

Action	Period
18. Prioritise new investment in natural heritage protection for the District's most at-risk ecosystems: dunes and other coastal environments, wetlands and lowland forest; and to consider the Council's ability to assist in the protection and management of these settings when they are located in areas being subdivided, either through the consenting process, or in addition to that process.	Ongoing
19. Reserve Management Plans to include consideration of opportunities to protect and enhance natural heritage values, including the control of pest plant and animal species, where appropriate on reserves and other land managed as reserve.	Ongoing
20. Engage closely with DOC in the drafting of the revised Nelson / Marlborough Conservation Management Strategy, and with other relevant regional planning work, particularly with respect to the management of regional and local natural heritage assets and the monitoring of changes to protection levels.	1 – 3 yrs
21. Continue Council's regional council function in the ongoing monitoring and management of the quality and quantity of water and wetlands.	Ongoing
22. Continue to protect riparian areas via esplanade reserves and strips.	Ongoing
23. Continue support for volunteer agencies in the restoration of native habitats as for 'Partnerships', particularly in riparian and coastal settings.	Ongoing

Robertson, B and Stevens, L. (2012) Tasman Coast Waimea Inlet to Kahurangi Point Habitat Mapping, Ecological Risk Assessment, and Monitoring Recommendations. Wriggle Coastal Management for Tasman District Council

7. How Will We Get There?

7.4. Partnerships

Council has a constrained budget for additional open space planning, purchase, protection and development work. The further development of partnerships will help ensure that central and local government resources are used efficiently, iwi interests are secured, and special interest groups can focus on targeted site protection and development work.

Six partnership areas have been identified:

- Working with iwi to secure natural heritage and cultural values and heritage assets on public land administered by Council, land owned by iwi, and other private land where relevant controls exist under the TRMP.
- Other local and central government agencies, particularly DOC, the Ministry of Education and Nelson City Council, where recreation and natural assets adjoin, when planning activities may be complementary, and when funding is provided by these agencies to volunteer groups which are also supported by Council.
- Regional volunteer and advocacy agencies, such as the Tasman Environmental Trust, who are able to obtain funding from a variety of sources and work on local and regional restoration, development and protection work for natural and recreation resources.
- National advocacy agencies, such as Fish & Game New Zealand and Walking Access New Zealand, which have recourse to independent funding and undertake regional land management activities. Walking Access New Zealand also provides funding to volunteer groups for public recreational access development.
- Private land owners and administrators, such as forestry companies and other land holders who have access easements and/or unformed legal roads through their properties, as well as QEII covenants and other forms of protection.
- Philanthropic groups which raise funds for land acquisition and maintenance, including A&P Associations, with land potentially vested in Council.

Council also often works with commercial agencies to provide recreation and tourism services on reserves and other areas of open space. These activities are largely controlled via the Tasman District Council Reserves General Policies.

The Department of Conservation has indicated that potential areas of collaboration with Council include:

- Rationalising land tenure or management where DOC and Council manage sites in close proximity;
- Identifying opportunities to exchange or acquire land for restoration purposes; and

The provision of advice and support to groups involved in the management of natural, historic and recreational resources (both on and off public conservation land).

The Council is accustomed to working with volunteer agencies throughout the District. Examples of forms of support provided by Council include:

- Providing funding from 'Grants from Rates' and 'Reserve Financial Contributions' (RFCs) for agreed projects for reserve development, and to support groups fund-raising for reserve acquisition (such as for the LEH Baigent Memorial Reserve and the Hoddy Estuary Park). RFCs are targeted to address capital projects driven by population growth and change in the District and are normally allocated by the full Council. Other grants may be decided at the Community Board or committee level.
- Providing plants for planting projects undertaken by volunteer groups.
- Administering planting days for volunteer groups and other community members.
- Offering advice about predator control, weeding and planting best practice, and coordinating the provision of such advice with the Department of Conservation.
- Support, service provision (such as an engineering assessment), coordination and advice when applying for building permits and consents for agreed activities on Council land.
- Membership and support (often voluntary) by Council staff and councillors in volunteer group activities.

Council will continue to support these relationships on an ongoing basis, and encourages groups to gain funding from a variety of sources. The District will benefit from a continuing focus on projects that provide long-term benefits.

Many activities on reserves and other areas of open space require consents, agreements under the Reserves Act, and compliance with reserve management plans, Tasman District Council Reserve General Policies and various bylaws. It is important for volunteer groups to communicate with Council prior to embarking on any works on Council land, and a memorandum of understanding with Council, at the least, may be required before any works starts.

Actions: Partnerships

Action	Period
24. In consultation with iwi, Wakatu Incorporation, Ngāti Rārua Ātiawa Iwi Trust (NRAIT) and the Department of Conservation, review areas where iwi land is being used for recreation purposes in the Tasman District to ensure that all necessary protocols are being met and that effects of use are controlled or mitigated.	4 – 6 yrs
25. Meet at least annually with the Ministry of Education's regional property adviser to identify actions which will support residents' use of education land for recreation purposes, and the objectives of the Ministry in relation to property security and community values.	Ongoing
26. Work with forestry companies to identify the best means of delivering information about the status of public access through forestry land.	1 – 6 yrs
27. Continue to support regional volunteer groups to achieve their restoration projects, and where relevant in association with the Department of Conservation.	Ongoing
28. Where a community group wishes to increase Council's landholdings, the acquisition must fit regional strategic priorities for acquisition (see actions for open space 'Quantity').	Ongoing
29. Ensure that management planning processes, particularly the development of catchment management plans, include consultation with Council's open space partners to identify potential areas for the cooperative enhancement of environmental and recreation values.	Ongoing



7.5. Landscape and historic heritage values

Landscape and historic heritage values are considered in the same section of this Strategy as they are largely controlled by the same statutory mechanisms.

The Council administers 26 reserves for the primary purpose of cultural heritage. Sixteen of these are cemeteries and the balance have various historic buildings, gardens, trees and memorial sites.

Many other reserves will also contain features and sites of cultural value to both Māori and Europeans, including sites of interest where no artefacts are obvious, as well as those which contain noted trees and buildings. These features provide communities with important linkages to the past and some understanding of the way their communities have been shaped.

The Māori Cultural Impact Assessment (MCIA) prepared on behalf of Tiakina te Taiao for the 2013 General Reserves Polices (Appendix 2 to this document), provided Council with an awareness of the actions required in the management of the existing reserves to ensure that cultural values are sufficiently protected.

The primary tools for protection of areas of historic significance are rules under the Tasman Resource Management Plan (TRMP) and the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014. This Act makes it an offence to destroy, damage, or modify any archaeological site without an authority from the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. The TRMP also maps and schedules heritage buildings and items, and some, but not all, sites of value to mana whenua and tangata whenua iwi. The TRMP also contains rules to control development and land disturbance on and in the vicinity of these sites and any alteration to heritage structures.

Tasman District has some of the most diverse landscapes in the country. While some of these occur on the conservation estate, a Council landscape study (Works Consultancy Services Ltd 1995) and a study of coastal landscapes (Boffa Miskell 2005) identified a number of landscapes and natural features outside the conservation estate that are outstanding or of regional significance on the basis of their character, quality and visibility. The Golden Bay Landscapes Project is in the process of identifying outstanding natural features and landscapes and developing a sustainable management strategy for landscape change to incorporate in a Plan Change to the TRMP for Council adoption and notification.

There are no Council reserves held specifically for landscape purposes, although there are several Scenic Reserves provided and managed by both the Department of Conservation and the Council that clearly have 'scenic' values as recognised by their reserve classification.

Landscape and historic heritage values on public and private land have been identified as very important to residents during the preparation of the TRMP and the Reserves General Policies. Controls over the development of private land, in relation to these values, are contained in the TRMP, and this plan has no intention or capacity to override these controls. The Reserves General Policies apply landscape and heritage asset management controls to land managed as reserve by Council and it is not recommended that Council acquire specific areas of land solely to protect their landscape values.

Actions: Landscape and historic heritage

Action	Period
30. The protection of landscape and historic heritage values on private land will be carried out via the controls set in the TRMP and ongoing reviews.	Ongoing
31. The management of landscape and historic heritage values will be a consideration in the review of all Reserve Management Plans, particularly via reference to iwi management plans and consultation with iwi on issues of particular cultural importance.	1 – 3 yrs

7.6. Resilience

Resilience is an emerging management concept for open space. Managing for resilience can include:

- Supporting enhanced community cohesion by providing quality open space areas which encourage interaction between different sectors of the community and individuals.
- Providing spaces which serve civil defence purposes for safe congregation, triage and other unexpected uses in the event of natural disasters. These may include activities which damage open space values but which are considered essential in accordance with the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002.
- Allowing communities to use open space for community gardens, and providing access to fruit trees and traditional resources such as flax, sand and stone, in accordance with the Council's Reserves General Polices and reserve management plans.
- Acquiring open space in areas which provide a buffer between residential and other community areas, and areas at risk from inundation and erosion resulting from the effects of climate change.
- Permitting the use of open space areas for the development of utility services, such as flood water retention and flood prevention, as well as allowing the use of utility areas for recreation in accordance with the requirements of the Tasman Resource Management Plan.
- Ensuring management regimes enable open spaces to accommodate and respond to a changing climate, including the concept of managed retreat.
- Planting to provide carbon storage for atmospheric CO2
- Contributing to the health and welfare of the community by the maintenance of resilient ecosystems.

Climate change poses a growing challenge for the ongoing provision and maintenance of open space areas. Increasing temperatures, sea level rise and changes in

rainfall patterns will lead to changes in habitats and the abundance, distribution and composition of native species. Climate change may also exacerbate existing erosion processes, and pressures from weeds and introduced pest animals. Changing landscapes and climatic conditions will also have implications for existing recreational and cultural values. Our best defence against climate change is a resilient landscape. This may mean, for example, the need for extensive planting programmes (and possibly engineering works if necessary) to reduce the negative impacts from extreme storm events, invasive species and increased fire risks during dry periods. Planting is also a means of sequestering carbon dioxide, one of the most significant greenhouse gases.

The Tasman District Council and other open space providers currently do not give much consideration to community resilience in the acquisition, protection and management decisions for the open space network. The Council takes into account the effects of climate change when acquiring esplanade reserves or strips and has increased its planting of edible plants in reserves through the 'Open Orchards' project and has historically provided for cultural harvest, firewood collection and hunting in some areas.

Generally, existing levels of service for other values such as accessibility to open space areas and diversity of open space areas will improve community resilience potential. However, management decisions need to have regard for these issues.

Conversely, land managed primarily for resilience services - such as flood protection and mitigation - can offer open space values, and providing for multiple community values will enhance the net value of Council's land holdings.

Actions: Resilience

Action	Period
32. Reserve Management Plans will include consideration of the concept of resilience.	Ongoing
33. Catchment Management Planning undertaken by Council will consider the multiple uses of flood ways and flood retention areas for community and open space values.	1 – 10+ yrs
34. When acquiring open space land, Council reserve management staff will work with engineering and planning staff to consider all options for meeting resilience, utility and open space needs.	Ongoing





8. Summary

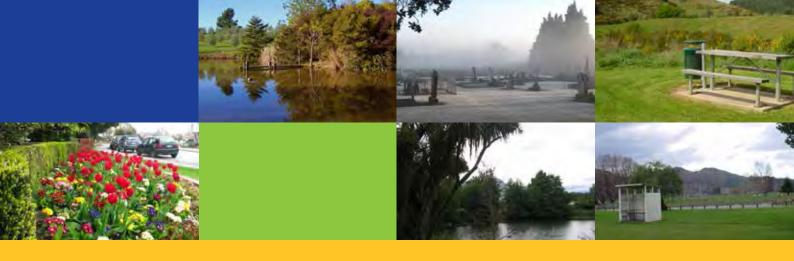
The intention of the Strategy is to identify important actions that Council can progress over the next ten years to help ensure that open spaces:

- are located in the right place and have the right level of public access,
- are being used appropriately,
- contribute to the protection of the District's native habitats,
- have the right facilities on them, and
- respond to a growing and changing population.

This document does not seek to answer all questions about how open space can be managed. Rather, it focuses on the processes by which the best answers can be identified over time.

This is a companion document to the Tasman District Council Reserves General Policies which was prepared in 2013. That document includes controls for a wide range of uses of open space, such as commercial and utility services, as well as general recreation. This Strategy moves beyond those policies to direct Council investment in the acquisition and development of new and existing open spaces, and, in particular, focuses on how Council can best cooperate with other agencies and voluntary groups which help make the Tasman District such a great place to live, work and recreate.





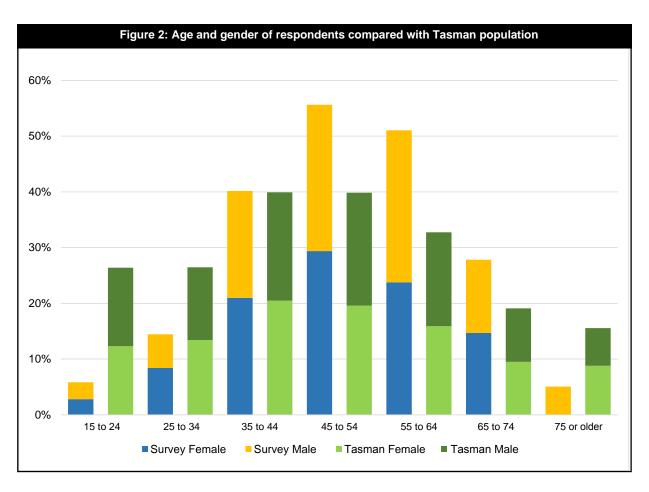
This section presents the results of a survey of the use and values of open space in the Tasman District. The method relied on self-selected respondents completing on online questionnaire or a hard copy version made available through libraries and Council service centres. The survey period ran from early February to late March 2014. Promotion was carried out via reference in Council's Newsline, radio and direct email to potentially interested community groups. Two-hundred and forty-six valid responses were received.

Demographics

Respondents from the Moutere - Waimea Ward were overrepresented in the results while Richmond residents were under-represented (Table 1).

Table 1: Origin of respondents showing representation by Ward					
	Respondent origin for Tasman (%)	Tasman population (%)			
Golden Bay Ward	8	10			
Lakes Murchison Ward	3	7			
Motueka Ward	22	23			
Moutere – Waimea Ward	42	27			
Richmond Ward	24	32			
Nelson	38 respondents				
International	1 respondent				

Figure 2 shows the age and gender of respondents compared with the age and gender profile or the Tasman District (2006 Census). Both sets of data exclude people aged less than 15 years. The gender representation tended towards women (59% of respondents compared with 51% of the population) with the ages from 45 to 74 over-represented.



Cultures were generally representative, with 88% of respondents identifying themselves as European compared with 82% of the region's population; and 3% of respondents identifying as Maori compared with 7% of the regional population.

In 2006 17% of the total NZ population identified themselves as having a disability, compared with 5% of respondents.

Motivations

Figure 3 and Figure 4 show values for respondents to the survey of Tasman District residents for reasons for using open space, and the importance of managing various factors.

Figure 3 identifies the elative importance of eight reasons for using open spaces in the Tasman District. The most important factor was 'doing my favourite recreation activity'. Setting characteristics, such as 'enjoying the peace and quiet' and 'seeing native plants and animals in their natural setting' were the 2nd and 4th most highly ranked reasons respectively, although more people considered native plants as of low importance when compared with

'improving my fitnes '.' Socialising with family and friends', while not ranked as very important as often as most reasons, was one of the least likely to have been ranked as not important. The relative lack of importance regarding 'getting my children outside' will relate strongly to the demographics of the respondents rather than indicating a lack of value of open space for children. Learning about the history of the District was ranked least important.

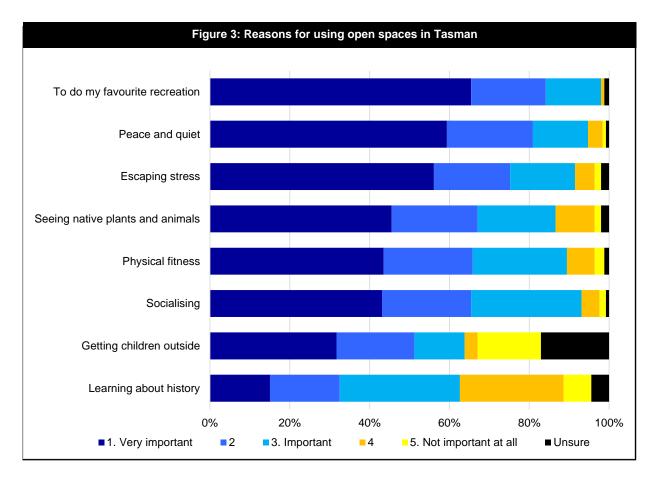
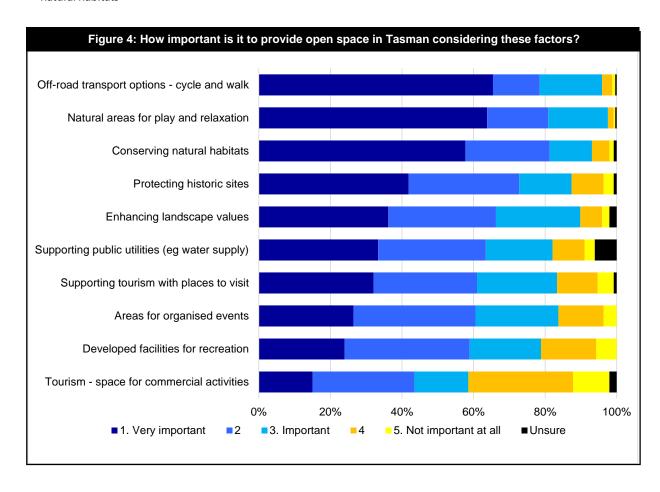


Figure 4 shows that providing for off- oad transport options, such as cycleways and walkways, providing natural areas for play and relaxation, and conserving native plants and animals in their natural habitats were considered the three most important factors for providing open spaces in Tasman. The options for Figure 4 in the questionnaire in full were:

- Providing off- oad transport options, such as cycleways and walkways
- Providing natural areas for play and relaxation
- Conserving native plants and animals in their natural habitats

- Protecting historic sites
- Enhancing the district's landscape values
- Supporting public utilities like domestic water supply
- Supporting tourism by providing places for people to visit
- Providing areas for organised events
- Providing developed facilities for recreation (BBQs, playgrounds, etc)
- Supporting tourism by providing places for commercial activities



How does the community use open space?

The survey showed that respondents were more active than the population generally, which is not surprising considering the self-selection method used. Table 1 shows the activities carried out by respondents in open spaces in Tasman, compared with the participation levels carried out at the regional level for Sport Tasman as identified by the Active NZ survey. The latter survey is based on a random selection of residents and is therefore more likely to represent actual activity levels. While the main activities undertaken by respondents were consistent with those identified by the Active NZ study, the levels of participation by respondents to the Council survey were far more active, with, for example, 40% of residents of the Sports Tasman region swimming anywhere (pools, lakes and the sea), while 66% of survey respondents swam in the sea. Horse riders were overrepresented in the Council survey by a factor of 10, trampers by a factor of 3.5, runners by 2.7 and cyclists by 1.8.

Walking, swimming, fishing, cycling are the most important activities identified in both studies, while open spaces are commonly used for picnics, passive enjoyment and playing with children. However, the survey data shows that each

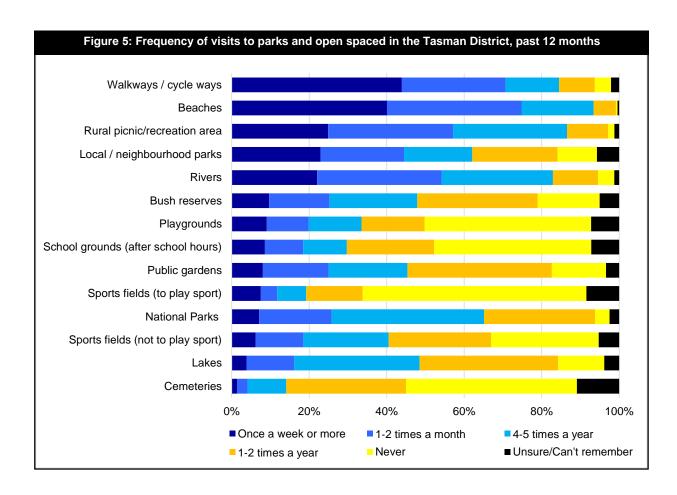
respondent named an average of just over seven different uses of open spaces, indicating that most accessed open spaces for many reasons.

Table 2: Activity – Tasman survey results compared with Active NZ national and regional data					
Activity	Survey Count	TDC Survey %	Active NZ %		
Walking	205	83	68		
Swimming in the sea	163	66	40*		
Bicycling	159	65	36		
Picnicking/BBQ"s	155	63	-		
Just sitting and enjoying the area	138	56	-		
Tramping	127	52	15		
Swimming in lakes or rivers	121	49	40*		
Playing with children	112	46	-		
Looking at plants and animals	103	42	-		
Kayaking/sailing/paddle boarding in the sea	97	39	15.4*		
Horse riding	73	30	3		
Fishing in the sea	71	29	16.6		
Running	64	26	9.5		
Kayaking/sailing/paddle boarding rivers and lakes	45	18	15.4*		
Motor boating in the sea	34	14	-		
Fishing in rivers and lakes	25	10	5.7		
Dog walking	15	6	-		
Motor boating on rivers or lakes	14	6	-		
Hunting	7	3	1		
Paragliding/Hang-gliding	6	2	1		
Conservation work	5	2	-		
Camping	4	2	-		
Geology/fossicking	3	1	-		
Other	14	6	-		
Total	1760	246			

^{*} Active NZ data for these activities is not subdivided by fresh and saltwater settings, and the figu es shown here are for all settings. The Active NZ swimming data also includes swimming pools.

These activity data correspond well with the locations which people described as their preferred settings. Figure 5 shows that walkways and cycleways were the most frequently visited setting with 44% of respondents using them once a week or more. Beaches had a similar level of use, with 40% of respondents visiting weekly. Local or neighbourhood parks, although probably the most accessible open space setting considered by the study, were visited less frequently than rural recreation settings (44% visited 1 to 2 times a month or more frequently, compared with 57%), while rivers were also popular (54%

visited 1 to 2 times a month or more frequently). The questionnaire did not include respondents under the age of 15 and so the data for school grounds excludes most school-age respondents, indicating a relatively high level of use, with 52% of respondents using them at least 1 to 2 times a year. Sports fields were more likely to be used for non-sport activities by respondents (58% never used them for sport compared with 28% using them for non-sport activities). While cemeteries were the least likely to be visited weekly, 45% of respondents visited a cemetery at least annually.



Respondents were asked to name the areas of open space in the Tasman District they used, and to identify who they thought managed those areas (Table 5). Rabbit Island was by far the most frequently identifie site, used by 49% of respondents. The three national parks combined rivalled this, however, with 55% of respondents using at least one of them. Cycle trails were given various titles in the responses (including all or parts of Tasman's Great Taste Trail, as well as other urban cycle routes and rural mountain bike trails, but most frequently, just 'cycleways'), and were grouped here to allow comparison. While most respondents identified

Council as the manager of cycleways, 4 considered them jointly managed by the Council and NCC and 5 respondents thought they were jointly managed by the Council and the Nelson Tasman Cycle Trails Trust. More than half of the sites named (55%) were described as solely managed by Council and 21% by DOC. Management agencies were mostly identified accurately. Thirty-eight respondents named Rough Island or the Rough Island Equestrian Park. It was not clear if those who named the island generally meant the Equestrian Park, and the responses have been presented separately. A large number of other reserves and parks was named (121).

Table 3: Tasman survey results: Sites used and manager – count						
Site (named by more than	n Ownership					
ten respondents)	TDC	DOC	Don't know	TDC & DOC	Other agency	
Rabbit Island	129	3	4	1	4	
Abel Tasman National Park	2	46	1	4	5	
Cycle Trails	26	1			11	
Kahurangi National Park		35		1	1	
Motueka Waterfront	20	4		8	4	
Kaiteriteri Coast	23				13	
Nelson Lakes National Park		34			1	
Kina Reserve and Beach	18	3	1		5	
Rough Island	23				3	
Motueka River	13			1	10	
Richmond Hills	12	3	1		5	
Mapua Waterfront	15		3		0	
Tasman's Great Taste Trail	5		2		9	
Washbourn Gardens	15		1		0	
Mt Arthur/Flora Saddle		12		1	1	
Lee River/Valley/Forest	9		1		3	
Wai-iti River/Domain	7	2	2		2	
Rough Is Equestrian Park	6				6	
Faulkner Bush	9	2			1	
Pohara Beach	9	1	1		0	
Rivers	7	1	1	1	1	
Waimea Estuary	4			3	4	
Mt Richmond Forest Park		11			0	
Kaiteriteri MTB Park			1		9	
Aniseed Valley	5	1	2	1	1	
Other	189	45	15	12	76	
Percent	55	21	4	3	18	

Restrictions and preferences

Section 5 of this Strategy shows the results of questions in the survey about satisfaction and importance of specific open spa e assets and values. Refer to that section for relevant results.

Respondents were asked what issues restricted them from using open spaces as much as they would like. While the prime restriction was personal - being too busy - the other issues related to use of a site: crowding, bad behaviour of others, too many commercial activities, and too much noise (Figure 6). However, the levels of restriction were relatively slight, with small percentages of respondents reporting that the issue 'mostly' or 'totally' restricted their participation (4 and 5 in Figure 6 respectively). Table 4 shows the response levels for those two response sets, ignoring those respondents who were 'unsure'.

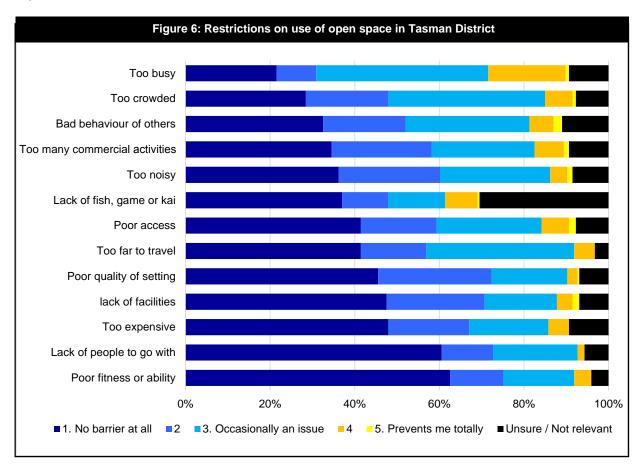


Table 4: Restrictions – percent issues restricts me 'totally' and 'mostly'	
I'm too busy	21
There is not enough fish, game or kai	12
There are too many commercial activities	9
There is poor access at the sites I would like to visit	9
Other people behave too badly	9
Where I want to go is too crowded or busy	8
The places I like to visit are too noisy	6
There aren't enough facilities (BBQs, toilets, picnic tables etc)	6
The cost of equipment I need to own or rent	5
The distance I have to travel	5
My level of fitness and abili y	4
The quality of the places I would like to visit	3
A lack of people to go with	2

When respondents were asked to list their favourite three things about the quality and quantity of open space in Tasman, the uncrowded settings were rated quite highly (Table 5).

The accessibility of open spaces was mentioned most often with 15% of comments about this. Spaces that are easily accessible from homes are important. Respondents mentioned accessibility for specific activities e.g. biking, walking, swimming, fishing, kayaking, as well as to specific environments e.g. beach, National Park, river, bush.

The variety of different spaces was the next most often mentioned favourite aspect with 13% comments. Respondents talked about the diversity of places to exercise, visit and recreate. This includes the coast and sea, bush, parks, gardens, cycle trails, rivers etc. The great variety of open space areas caters to a wide range of activities and is valued.

For 10% of comments, the uncrowded environment was their favourite aspect. Open spaces are quiet and peaceful and there aren't too many people. Also, people liked that there isn't a lot of commercial activity.

The natural beauty of Tasman was mentioned in 10% of comments. Survey respondents mentioned the scenery and views of the mountains, landscape and beaches. They talked about a relatively unspoilt natural setting. They liked the open spaces, fresh air and the "get away from it all" feeling.

The good facilities (7% comments) and clean and tidy (5% comments) aspect was a favourite for many. Generally facilities were of a high standard, well maintained and in good condition. Mention was made of well-formed tracks, good BBQ and picnic areas, playgrounds and public gardens.

	Count	% (n=246)
Accessibility	82	33
Variety spaces	69	28
Uncrowded	56	23
Natural beauty	55	22
Facilities good	36	15
Open space	29	12
Beaches and coast	29	12
Cycle trails	29	12
Clean and tidy	29	12
Children friendly	14	6
National Parks	13	5
Rabbit Island	13	5
Walking/tramping tracks	11	4
Wildlife	10	4
Equestrian	9	4
Native bush	8	3
Social aspects	8	3
Safe	7	3
Rivers	7	3
Rough Island	6	2
Free	5	2
Water quality	5	2
Dog friendly	3	1
Waiti	2	1
Other	3	1
Total	538	

Respondents listed their three least-favoured things, and offered some corroboration of the results of the satisfaction questions shown in Figure 1 (Table 6).

Rubbish was cited as a concern in 12% of comments. This included there being insufficient rubbish bins and bins not being emptied in parks and reserves, as well as people dumping rubbish on roadsides. Comments about rubbish referenced dog and horse poo and freedom campers.

Another 8% of comments were about weeds and pests. Infestations like old man's beard, blackberry, gorse, broom, possums, wasps and pine trees were mentioned. There was a feeling that more should be done to control weeds and pests. 7% of comments were about user conflicts. Comments were about different recreation user groups sharing spaces e.g. walkers/cyclists/horse riders. In some cases heavy use (crowding) and anti-social behaviour are related issues.

Dogs attracted 7% of comments. The majority of comments in this group were from people who didn't like dog poo being left behind, dogs off leashes, owners flouting rules and out of control dogs. Also in this group were comments about the need to provide more areas for dogs.

Anti-social behaviour was responsible for 7% of comments. Behaviours cited included: boy-racers and hoons, loud vehicles, trail bikes, irresponsible behaviour, noise, reckless motor boat use, graffiti, vandalism and people not abiding by rules.

	Count	% (n=246
Rubbish	55	22
Weeds and pests	36	15
User confli ts	34	14
Dogs	32	13
Anti-social behaviour	32	13
Horse access/facilities	31	13
Cycling access/facilities	25	10
Toilets	24	10
Poor maintenance	24	10
Crowded	23	9
Water quality	20	8
More facilities/space/walkway/gardens	19	8
Access	17	7
Freedom campers	14	6
Habitat restoration/landscaping/bush	14	6
Commercialism	13	5
Information and signage	8	3
Roads	7	3
Coastal protection	6	2
CBD vs Suburb vs Rural vs Remote	6	2
Expense and cost	6	2
Traffic/p king/transport	6	2
All good	5	2
Council issues	4	2
Wildlife	3	1
Restrictions	3	1
Powerboat access/facilities	2	1
Simple/natural	2	1
Total	471	

Respondents were finally asked or any general comments about open space. Some very long and considered responses were given. Table 7 gives a summary of the main themes identified. The main thread was general support for the quality and quantity of open space provided, but with the desire for the provision of several enhanced opportunities, particularly cycle and bridle paths.

Table 7: General comments		
	Count	% (n=246)
Positive/attractive/excellent	49	20
Horses - more trail access	34	14
Open space - protect/access/more	14	6
Cycle trails - appreciated/more needed	7	3
Weeds and pests - more work needed	7	3
Multi user trails - conflict/access/safety	6	2
Rubbish issues	5	2
Dogs - more spaces for	5	2
Rules and regulations - enforce these	5	2
Dogs - need to control/dog free areas	5	2
Natural environment/ biodiversity emphasis	5	2
Playgrounds/parks - more in rural area	3	1
Commercial vs private interests	3	1
Maintenance needs attention	2	1
Vandals/hoons - spoiling open space	2	1
Rules and regulations - no more	2	1
Older residents needs	2	1
Corridors to link open spaces	2	1
Marahau playground	2	1
Community interaction supported more	1	<1
Orchard and fruit tree planting	1	<1
Ferry between Mapua and Rabbit Island	1	<1
Camping - more places needed	1	<1
Signage and information needed	1	<1
Port Tarakohe - more access/parking	1	<1
Dellside - toilets needed	1	<1
Motorbikes - need place to go	1	<1
Mountain biking - more support for	1	<1
Total	169	



Appendix 2: The cultural significance of reserve lands to mana whenua iwi

Iwi in Tasman are:

Mana whenua and Tangata whenua iwi and Māori Organisations:

- Ngāti Tama Manawhenua Ki te Tau Ihu Trust
- Ngāti Rārua Iwi Trust
- Ngāti Koata Trust
- Te Āti Awa Manawhenua ki te Taui Ihu Trust
- Wakatū Incorporation
- Ngāti Rārua Āti Awa Iwi Trust
- Manawhenua ki Mohua Trust
- Tiakina te Taiao Ltd
- Rangitane o Wairau
- Ngāti Kuia
- Ngāti Toa Rangatira
- Ngāti Āpa ke te Rā To
- Ngāi Tahu (For the relevant area of the District around the Lakes/Murchison locality)

This appendix has been provided by Tiakina te Taiao via their Māori cultural impact assessment (MCIA) of the draft Tasman District Counicl General Reserves Policy Document.

The MCIA had the following acknowledgement:

This report could not have been written without the working group members who gave their time to this project. The Tiakina Board (B Thomas, M Stephens, J Morgan, J Katene, F Hippolite) K Johnson and M Ingram (Wakatū Inc), D Horne, K Stafford. Thank you to Teresa Foster for writing up the draft MCIA and Māori translations and Ursula Passl for guidance and feedback on this document.

Appendix 2: The cultural significance of reserve lands to mana whenua iwi

Ngā tikanga ake o ngā whenua Rāhui

The cultural significance of reserve lands – mana whenua iwi worldview

This section provides an overview of Māori cultural values and the relationship mana whenua iwi have with Council reserve lands to raise Council awareness and understanding of the importance of Tiakina and Council working in partnership. The history of the Tenths Reserves and Occupation Reserves will be outlined to explain why mana whenua iwi continue to maintain an interest and association to those lands Council designates as a reserve under the Reserves Act or any other legislation.

The four Tainui-Taranaki iwi in western Te Tau Ihu – Ngāti Koata, Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Tama and Te Ātiawa – are recognised as mana whenua on the basis of acquiring Māori customary title through a combination of take raupatu (conquest) and tuku (gift) and ahi kā roa (keeping the fi es alight, by occupation or in other recognised ways). Over time, the whakapapa of the migrant iwi from the north became, as the Waitangi Tribunal has put it, 'embedded in the whenua through intermarriage with the defeated peoples, the burial of placenta (whenua) and the dead, residence, and the development of spiritual links.'

As tangata whenua, mana whenua iwi have lived in Aorere (Tasman) since pre-European times. Whenua unites kinship and individual identity - providing a link between the past, the present and the future. For Māori therefore, the relationship between humans and other living elements of the environment such as natural resources including land and water originates through whakapapa (genealogy). Māori connected and related to the world as their very survival and wellbeing was tied to the environment and resources. It is in this connection that Māori identity and belonging is shaped and affirmed. Land is recognised by Māori as a taonga of paramount importance and

kaitiakitanga is the obligation of mana whenua iwi to be responsible for the well-being of the landscape.

The climate and supply of kai (food), freshwater and resources along river margins, estuaries, wetlands, bordering flax swamps and the coastal beaches of islands and the mainland were highly regarded and protected and sustained Māori communities for centuries. Resources included whenua (land), ngahere (forest), wai (water), nga awa (streams and rivers) and nga moana (the seas) as well as ika (fish), kaimoana (seafood), tuna (eels) and manu (birds).

The access to land, freshwater and natural resources was an important consideration as to where tūpuna ancestors settled. Some of the archaeological records show the importance of the location of coastal settlements, occupation areas and seasonal camps adjacent to rivers and estuaries in Aorere. Not all sites are recorded by the New Zealand Archaeological Association, but those known to mana whenua iwi continue to be significant to them. For example, some of the significant settlements existed at various times beside the Waimeha River, the islands of Waimeha estuary, Mapua, Motueka and Riuwaka and many other locations in this rohe. The spatial and temporal distribution of these wahi tapu (scared sites) indicates that these lands sustained whānau tūpuna for generations.

Continued occupation by mana whenua iwi in Aorere and the surrounding areas resulted in traditional and contemporary Māori knowledge and encompasses tikanga and kawa (values and practises), te reo Māori (language), kaitiakitanga, mātauranga o te Taiao (environmental knowledge), whakairo, raranga, rongoā (oral and visual arts), whakatauaki, pepeha (whanau, hapū narratives), korero tawhito, pakiwaitara (stories and legends).

Te hītori o ngā whenua rāhui - History of Tenths **Reserves and Occupation Reserves**

The historical creation of the Tenths reserves and occupation reserves are a result of the NZ Company and Crown policies introduced almost 170 years ago. A key issue is the current legislation places numerous constraints on management and administration of these areas for mana whenua iwi as well as severely limits the access and enjoyment to resources by mana whenua iwi.

The New Zealand Land Company (commercial enterprise formed in Britain and supported by the Crown) developed a principle that any land purchased from the customary Māori owners for European settlement would have one-tenth set aside for the future prosperity of the Māori vendors (this land became known as the 'Tenths Reserves')

It is estimated that as much as 450,000 acres were surveyed for the Nelson District. Only 151,000 acres was reserved for the New Zealand Company for the Nelson settlement, therefore 15,100 acres should have been put into the Tenths Reserves. Only 5,100 acres was set aside (10,000 acres short).

Furthermore, the Government enacted legislation allowing lessees rights of perpetual renewal and historically was 99 year leases (now 21-year rent reviews, which severely restricted the income received by the Māori owners). As a result of this history, the Māori customary owners lost ownership of important occupation sites, Pā sites, urupā, wāhi tapu and cultivated lands.

The Crown intended to hold the Tenths Reserves on trust on behalf of and for the benefit of the tang ta whenua who were those families who held Māori customary title to the 151,000 acres in the 1840s. Despite the guarantees and the provisions stipulated in the 1845 Crown Grant, the Crown failed to reserve a full one-tenth of land or exclude urupā, wāhi tapu and cultivated land from European settlement

From 1882 onwards, the Public Trustee, Native Trustee and Māori Trustee administered the Tenths Reserves and occupation reserves on behalf of the original owners and their descendants. During this period, a great deal of land was either sold or taken under public works legislation for schools, road, airports, infrastructure works - in many cases without the owners' consent and without compensation for the loss.

The establishment of Wakatū Inc was the result of recommendations made by the Sheehan Commission of Inquiry that the Tenths Reserves should be returned to the direct ownership and control of the Māori land owners. This recommendation was implemented by the Wakatū Incorporation Order 1977, which according to its explanatory note constituted "the proprietors of the land commonly known as the Nelson-Motueka and South Island Tenths".

Mana whenua iwi continue to uphold kaitiaki obligations and responsibilities for their cultivated lands, customary lands, urupā, wahi tapu areas, pa, occupation areas, camp sites and fortified ood storage areas. Current Council reserve lands therefore may have the above cultural layers as well as may be traditional harvest areas for mahinga kai (native foods) such as aruhe (fern root), rongoā and rāranga species, pūhā and kōwhitiwhiti/wāta kirihi (watercress) patches, native fishe ies and freshwater. Likewise, Council reserve lands may be links and access ways to customary lands and paakohe trails or areas used for ceremonial purposes, historical hui or wāhi pakanga - the site of historic battles. In addition, customary practices and traditions such as waka taua landing areas and wananga areas may have been used on reserve lands. For these reasons, mana whenua iwi continue to have an enduring relationship and association with the Tenths Reserves and reserve lands designated under the Reserve Act and other legislations.

Appendix 2: The cultural significance of reserve lands to mana whenua iwi

Me mohiotia te mana me te tino rangatiratanga o ngā iwi

Recognition of mana whenua iwi rangatiratanga and kaitiakitanga of nga taonga tuku iho

Mana whenua iwi demonstrate rangatiratanga and kaitiakitanga, an obligation and responsibility inherited from their tūpuna ancestors, to ensure Te Taiao – the environment and its resources - are maintained, enhanced and protected, and that the obligation passes to the next generation. The management of Council reserve lands must be inclusive of mana whenua iwi and can extend to comanagement and joint management arrangements. Where policies and plans are developed without mana whenua iwi participation, mana whenua iwi are unable to practice kaitiakitanga (guardianship). Consequently, mana whenua iwi cannot contribute their mātauranga (knowledge) to the decision-making processes and cannot play a role in the protection and maintenance of nga taonga tuku iho.

In addition, if mana whenua do not participate in management processes associated with nga taonga tuku iho, their rangatiratanga (chieftainship), guaranteed under Article II of Te Tiriti o Waitangi cannot be recognised. This guarantee protected mana whenua iwi lands and other taonga, but also the mana (authority) to control them in accordance with their own customs and traditions and having regard to their own customary preferences.

Whakangungua te mauri o te whenua me te wai -Protecting the mauri of reserve lands and waterways

The concept of mauri is important in Māori worldview. All elements of the natural environment (including people) have a mauri or life force and all forms of life are interconnected and interrelated.

Mana whenua iwi are responsible for protecting the mauri (life force) of all elements of the natural environment including lands, waterways, springs and native flora and fauna, fishe ies and coastal environments. For mana whenua iwi the maintenance and enhancement of the mauri of all living things in, on or adjacent to reserve lands is imperative to the sustainable management of resources and a key environmental principal to ensure the health and well-being of taonga resources and people.

The degradation of coastal and freshwater resources is a key concern for mana whenua iwi. The decline in water quantity and water quality has impacted on the cultural values and traditional uses for mahinga kai resources. A water body with a healthy mauri will sustain healthy ecosystems, support cultural uses and mahinga kai (food sources), and be a source of pride and identity to the people.

Tiakina te wao nui a Tāne - Protecting indigenous habitats, biodiversity and associated mātauranga

The protection, maintenance and enhancement of indigenous biodiversity and associated habitats are an integral part of Māori environmental management. The health and wellbeing of coastal wetlands, estuaries, rivers and lakes and forests are vital to sustain the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna. The utilisation of natural resources for traditional customary practices such as weaving, building waka and pā and the use of rongoa plants are important to mana whenua and ensure the transmission of matauranga Maori from one generation to the next.

Coastal development and activities in and around reserve lands have led to degradation of, damage and destruction of wahi tapu, cultural heritage and sites of significance to mana whenua iwi. Activities on reserve lands and reserve management approaches may destroy or damage habitats supporting indigenous flora and fauna. The loss of indigenous biodiversity affects mana whenua iwi cultural values.

For example Higgs Reserve is important to mana whenua iwi as a mahinga kai area and nesting area for the taonga

kotuku bird. Furthermore, wāhi tapu here includes hangi sites and part of occupation area of matāhua. Unfortunately contractors working nearby destroyed native trees and vegetation at Higgs Reserve. The loss of cultural resources and areas results in a loss of indigenous habitats, biodiversity and associated mātauranga as well as access and use to taonga resources. The inclusion of mana whenua iwi in the management of reserve lands will ensure cultural values and biodiversity values are enhanced and protected.

Kia mau kē ki ngā tikanga o ōu mātau tūpuna -Maintaining customary use

The customary practices of collecting and harvesting inanga, ngā tūmomo ika (fish species), ngā tūmomo manu (bird species), tuna, kaimoana, native flora and fauna from or adjacent to reserve lands continues to be an important part of mana whenua iwi life.

Traditional food gathering areas continue to sustain the spiritual and physical well being of mana whenua iwi. Although fewer māhinga mātaitai exist today, they are still an important part of cultural life. Therefore the maintenance and enhancement of these areas is even more critical. The practice of manaakitanga - harvesting local kai from the area for manuhiri (visitors) is an indication the food baskets are healthy and refle ts on the mana (status) and well being of mana whenua iwi and their ability to look after local resources as the kaitiaki of this rohe.

Appendix 2: The cultural significance of reserve lands to mana whenua iwi

Whakamarumarutia ngā wāhi tapu me ngā wāhi taonga - Protection of wāhi tapu and wāhi taonga associated with reserve lands

There are many wahi tapu areas (sacred places and sites) associated with or adjacent to reserve lands. Wāhi tapu provide mana whenua iwi with a physical and spiritual link to tūpuna ancestors and are places or sites associated with customary tapu practices, kōiwi (human remains), historical events, pā sites or wāhi pakanga (sites of battles). Wāhi tapu can also signify ahi kā roa (long-term residency) and the historical association mana whenua iwi have with their customary lands. For example, the Motueka public cemetery reserve is a known historical occupation area. Other examples include: Kaka Point, Little Kaiteretere, Māpua, Kina Peninsula and Anawhakau Pā at Tapu Bay. The Anawera crescent reserve (a recreational reserve) surrounds this historic location. As kaitiaki, mana whenua iwi are responsible for the protection of these wāhi tapu areas in their rohe.

The protection of remains of traditional camp sites used as a base from which to gather seasonal food and waka landing sites are widespread in the Tasman rohe. For example, river margins and estuaries were used by mana whenua iwi to access food and other resources. Sites are often found near wetlands or at the confluen e of tributaries. Wāhi tapu associated with rivers include, but

are not limited to: urupā (burial grounds), sites used for ceremonial purposes, mahinga mātaitai (food gathering areas), riu waka (landing sites), camping sites, work areas and places for harvesting rongoā. For example, Stephens Bay and Anawera are known areas for the supply of kawakawa a native plant used for medicinal purposes by mana whenua iwi.

Kia mau ki ngā tikanga Māori me te mātauranga Māori – Use of mātauranga and application of tikanga

The use of mātauranga (knowledge) and tikanga (customary practices) is fundamental in the management of Council reserve lands.

Reserve lands may sustain a diverse range of indigenous habitats, flora and fauna, fisheries and bird life. Mātauranga associated with those habitats and indigenous species underpin the cultural identity of mana whenua iwi - this mātauranga forms the basis of manawhenua iwi tikanga and kawa. The loss of biodiversity results in the loss of cultural identity through the inability to apply matauranga and tikanga connected with those resources. The physical and spiritual wellbeing of mana whenua iwi is therefore compromised. The value manawhenua iwi attach to reserve lands is reflected in the use of wāhi ingoa (names), whakataukī (proverbs), karakia (prayer) and waiata (song) to describe different parts of the landscape, including features relating to mountains, hilltops, rivers, estuaries and costal environments. Customary names and whakatauki describe the cultural value tūpuna (ancestors) placed on their relationship with the natural environment. For example Puketawai and Pukekoikoi Pā are significant Occupation reserves for Ngāti Rārua and Te Ātiawa whānau and hapū.



Appendix 3: How is open space managed in Tasman?

Tasman District Council

Long Term Plan

The Long Term Plan (LTP) outlines the activities and the services Council is planning to provide over the coming 10 years. It states the vision for the District, the Community Outcomes, the services and activities Council is planning to undertake to contribute to those Outcomes, and the likely costs of Council providing those services and activities over the next 10 years.

THE LTP is reviewed every three years. The public has the opportunity to make submissions on the Draft Long Term Plan. Council considers the submissions received during the consultation phase and subsequently makes decisions on the changes it wants included in the final Plan.

The current LTP is for the period between 2012 - 2022 with a further LTP planned for development during 2014/2015 and be effective for the 2015 - 2025 period. In the intervening years Council develops Annual Plans that update each year of the LTP.

Within the current LTP there are budgets set aside for the development and maintenance of Council-owned open space areas as well as some funding to support and assist the protection and access to other open space areas.

Tasman Regional Policy Statement

The Tasman Regional Policy Statement is an overarching policy statement that was prepared in 2001 by the Tasman District Council in accordance with the Resource Management Act 1991 (the RMA). The Tasman Regional Policy Statement was required to be prepared as a strategic resource management plan to promote sustainable resource management in the Tasman District.

It covers significant concerns or issues dealing with most aspects of the natural and physical environment, and community interactions with the environment. It identifies issues that have social or economic significance through the use, development or protection of resources, but it does not cover social and economic issues that are not directly related to resource management.

The Tasman Regional Policy Statement sets objectives and policies for the management and conduct of the following key processes:

- Investigating and monitoring resources and the effects of resource use on the environment;
- Preparing and implementing resource management plans to address and resolve issues and achieve resource management results;
- Deciding on resource consents for activities involving resource use;
- Ensuring that resource uses and their environmental effects are managed in an acceptable way and in accordance with the law, plans and consents.

This policy framework has guided subsequent policy development for the Council, (particularly the Tasman Resource Management Plan) over the last decade.

Appendix 3: How is open space managed in Tasman?

Tasman Resource Management Plan

The Tasman Resource Management Plan (TRMP) has been prepared to assist Tasman District Council to carry out its functions under the Resource Management Act 1991. Under this Act, Tasman District Council has the functions of both a regional council and a territorial authority, so the TRMP is a combined district and regional plan.

The TRMP has been developed to interpret and apply the requiremnents of the NZ Coastal Policy Statement and the NZ Freshwater Policy Statement at the regional level.

Chapter 14 of the TRMP (Reserves and Open Spaces) contains high level objectives and policies for the acquisition, development and management of reserves and open spaces. The objectives are to provide:

- Adequate area and distribution of a wide range of reserves and open spaces to maintain and enhance recreation, conservation, access and amenity values;
- Efficient and effective use of open space and reserves to meet community needs for recreation and amenity;
- For the conservation of those areas in the District which have significant natural and scientific values such as landform, ecosystems, natural character and heritage values; and
- The avoidance of significant adverse effects of activities and facilities on open space and recreational areas, and on the amenity values of surrounding areas.

The Open Space Strategy, Reserves General Policies document and Reserve Management Plans all play a role in assisting Council to provide for the objectives and policies listed. The TRMP also includes rules for land zoned recreation, open space or conservation. Public access and protection of conservation values along the margins of lakes and rivers and along the coastline is addressed in Chapter 8. Provision through esplanade reserves or strips is governed specifically by rules in Section 16.4.

The Open Space Strategy provides additional guidance for the acquisition of esplanade reserves and strips.

Tasman District Growth Strategy 2011

The Tasman District Growth Demand and Supply Model (GDSM or growth model) has been developed and used to support the Council's long term planning through the Activity Management Plans, Long Term Plans and supporting policies e.g. Development Contributions Policy.

The purpose of the GDSM is to provide predictive information for future physical development including sites for built development and network services, based on objective Census projections and other trend data. This information generates the forecast assumptions for the programming of a range of services as Council activities and is revised every three years. The GDSM organises information about:

- a) expected future demand for built development within the pattern of urban and rural settlement areas in the Tasman District:
- b) evaluations of additional development potential, urban end-use, development density and additional built site capacity in urban settlement areas;
- c) proposed supply of built sites within the settlement pattern, over a series of time horizons into the long term future;
- d) expected dollar amounts for development contributions for individual network services, derived from the number of built site-equivalents over the respective service contribution areas in the 17 settlement areas over which the years 1 to 10 capital expenditure for new and upgraded services is to be spread.

As part of the development of this Strategy, an assessment of open space needs for each of the settlement areas within the district was considered and has been included within the Tasman District Council Open Space Strategy, Summary of Existing Provision, 2014.

Activity Management Plans

Activity Management Plans are produced for each major activity area of Council, providing the direction and detailed financial p ovision required for input into the 10 year Long Term Plan. They achieve this by:

- Describing the activities that the Council is involved in;
- Identifying the assets needed to undertake the activity;
- Outlining the level of service that the Council will provide to the public over at least a ten-year period from when the Plan was prepared;
- Defining the pe formance measures the Council will monitor to check whether it is delivering the proposed level of service;
- Providing information on how the activity will be funded and information on any new projects or expenditure that will be required during the ten years

They also outline the assumptions Council has used in preparing the Plan and the uncertainties and risks involved in undertaking each activity. The follow three Activity Management Plans provide guidance on the provision of open space:

- Parks and Reserves Activity Management Plan
- Community Services Activity Management Plan
- **Utilities Activity Management Plans**

Reserves General Polices (2013)

The Reserves General Policies document consolidates a number of policies relating to the provision, management and use of reserves that apply to all land administered by the Tasman District Council that is managed as reserve.

It provides useful policy guidance to the provision of open space, particularly in regard to the acquisition, exchange, disposal and gazettal of land for reserve.

A number of key outcomes sought by the provision of reserves are described including

- Equitable access
- Protection of ecological and cultural values
- Strategic location
- Fit for purpose (size)
- Cost effective and Affordable
- Multiple use/Protection of multiple values

Some minimum levels of service are provided as well as a number of required processes around the way acquisition, exchange, disposal and gazettal actions are taken by the Council.

Reserve Management Plans

Reserve management plans exist for each the following areas:

- Golden Bay Ward
- **Tata Beach Reserves**
- Motueka Ward
- Moutere Waimea Ward
- Lakes Murchison Ward
- Richmond Ward
- Waimea River Park
- Saxton Field (joint with NCC)
- Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve (joint with DOC)
- Rabbit Island

The policies that apply to reserve and open space provision are similar throughout all of these documents and can be summarised as follows:

Give priority to the acquisition of land that complements or links existing reserves so as to buffer forest remnants or estuary and river margins, and to provide continuous public walkways and open space;

- Seek to acquire or manage land in partnership with other organisations to provide for the present and future recreational and amenity needs of residents of the District.
- Ensure that areas of indigenous vegetation and wildlife habitat on reserves are protected, especially those areas adjoining the sea, streams, lakes, rivers, and on or adjacent to areas of karst;
- To reserve areas under Section 14 Reserves Act 1977, and classify areas as Local Purpose Reserve under Section 23 or Recreation Reserve under Section 16 of the Act as proposed by individual reserves policies, or as deemed appropriate by Council.
- Consider revoking reserve status where it is considered that the land is no longer required for reserve purposes, or changing the classification of a reserve if the primary purpose or use of the reserve has changed, while taking account of the original purpose of reservation and in consultation with the original donor of the land if possible;
- Acquire land where such addition will assist in achieving the objectives of park and river management.
- Where land acquisition is not achievable or practical, seek formal agreements with adjoining land owners to provide for management plan objectives, such as agreements for public access.

The joint reserve management plan with NCC for Saxton Field also reinforces the value of providing this shared regional facility.

The Waimea River Park Management Plan proposes the following cycling and walking routes within or close to the Waimea River Park:

- Proposed pedestrian trail at Brightwater to and along the Two Rivers Walkway
- Proposed shared-use trail (pedestrian and cycle) between Lower Queen Street and Redwoods Road (Rabbit Island) via the east bank of the lower Waimea River, Appleby Bridge and the west bank of the lower Waimea River.

These two cycling and walking routes have now been developed in a different form through Tasman's Great Taste Trail funded as part of the NZ Cycle Trail project.

Appendix 3: How is open space managed in Tasman?

Riparian Land Management Strategy 2001

The purpose of the Riparian Land Management Strategy

- Identify the priority actions for the Council to enhance water quality and habitat values, and public access through improved riparian management.
- Outline where further investigation and consultation is required to provide guidance on the management needs of riparian areas in the Tasman District.

The strategy is a policy document to guide the actions of Council and other parties when implementing the relevant objectives, policies and methods contained in the Tasman Resource Management Plan.

Regional Cycling and Walking Strategy 2005

The vision of this strategy is to progress Tasman District towards being a safe and enjoyable place to walk and cycle. Its objectives are to increase the percentage of people cycling and walking, reduce the number of injuries involving pedestrians and cyclists, and to increase understanding and response to the identified needs of yclists and pedestrians.

Connecting Tasman 2010

Connecting Tasman (2010) includes the Tasman Cycling Strategy and the Tasman Pedestrian Strategy. The vision for Tasman's land transport network is:

To have a land transport system that will support a sustainable and prosperous economy, that is accessible by and serves the whole community, contributing to the better health, safety and wellbeing of those living within and visiting the Tasman region.

The vision of the strategy is to progress Tasman District towards being a safe and enjoyable place to walk and cycle. The objectives are to increase the percentage of people cycling and walking, reduce the number of injuries involving pedestrians and cyclists, and to increase understanding and response to the identified needs of cyclists and pedestrians. Reserves, esplanade areas and other easements play an important role in supporting the regional cycling and walking network.

Waimea Inlet Strategy (2010)

This strategy was developed together the communities of Tasman and Nelson and the many groups who have

an interest in and a commitment to the Waimea Inlet and its sustainable future. It is also an inter-agency strategy that includes the Tasman and Nelson Councils, statutory agencies, non-statutory groups and organisations, businesses and residents.

The Waimea Inlet is the largest enclosed estuary in the South Island, at 3,455 hectares in area. It has an internal coastline of 65 kilometres between Tahunanui and Mapua. The Inlet has changed dramatically over the past 200 years and requires a long term commitment to protect and enhance the inlet by the community and its councils.

Five strands of actions are identified with some specifi actions that affect this strategy:

- Working together
- Protection and ecosystem wellbeing
- Cooperation or separation
- Regeneration
- Continuing commitment

Forest Recreational Access Policy

Tasman District Council owns 3880 hectares of commercial exotic forests. It has a policy of providing for controlled access to some of the forests while ensuring management of the forests is not disrupted.

Tasman - Nelson Regional Pest Management Strategy

The purpose of this Regional Pest Management Strategy is to provide a framework for efficient and effective pest management in the Tasman-Nelson region so as to:

- (a) minimise actual and potential unintended effects associated with the organisms identified as pests; an
- (b) maximise the effectiveness of individual pest management action by way of a regionally co-ordinated response.

Native Habitats Tasman

Since 2008 the Native Habitats Tasman programme has been surveying sites outside the existing public conservation estate that have been identified as being potentially significant from a biodiversity perspective.

The project aims to survey the extent, type and values of natural vegetation, wetlands and wildlife habitat that remain. When this is known, Council and landowners can look at ways to work together to ensure these areas are looked after appropriately. Landowner participation in this project is entirely voluntary.

Five ecological criteria have been adopted to evaluate site significance, with each being scored on a five-point scale (low through to high). Three of these are grouped as primary criteria and evaluated in such a way that high or moderately high scores can in themselves qualify a site as being significant. The two secondary criteria are supporting criteria. They can contribute to a site being deemed significant, where the primary criteria alone do not do so. The criteria are defined below.

Primary criteria

- Representativeness: The extent to which the vegetation and/or habitat resembles that originally present and the extent to which the ecosystem and/or community is the best remaining example of its type in the ecological district.
- Rarity and distinctiveness: The presence of threatened or rare species or communities, the presence of locally endemic species or species at regional or national distributional limits and the presence of distinctive species or communities.
- Diversity and pattern: The number of indigenous communities at a site (community diversity), the number of indigenous species at a site (species richness) and a change in communities or species composition along environmental gradients.

Secondary criteria

- Ecological context: Degree of connectivity between sites, degree of buffering of the site by the surrounding environment and the provision of critical resources for a species.
- Size and shape: The extent and compactness of the site.

A further criterion was also assessed that is outside the significance assessment and relates instead to the need for management of the site.

 Sustainability: Extent of threats, inherent fragility and/or robustness of the communities and degree of robustness inherent in the site's size, shape, connectivity and buffering.

The programme is initially concentrating on the plains and lowlands of east Tasman (Waimea – Moutere – Motueka) where there are few natural areas remaining, then plans to move to northwest Tasman (Golden Bay) and finally to south Tasman (Murchison – St Arnaud). It is a long term project that is expected to take a number of years.

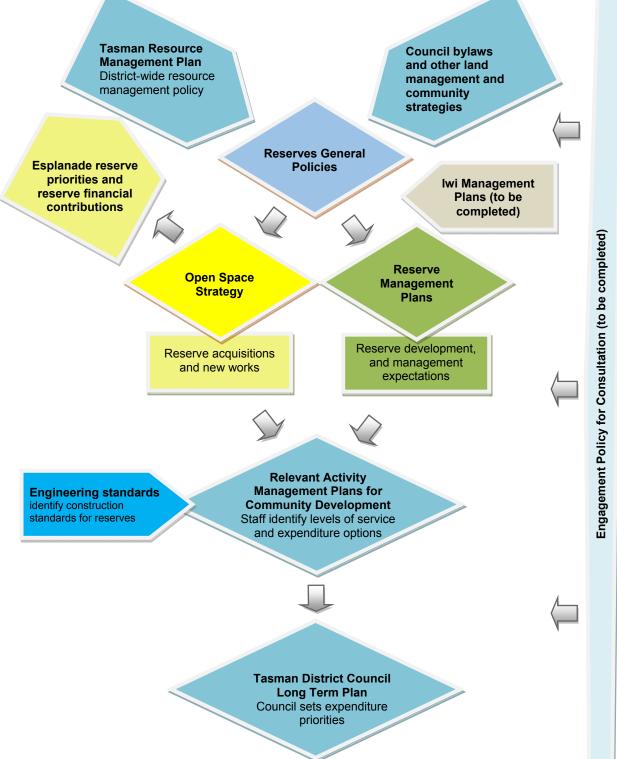
The majority of identified po ential important sites within the Motueka Ecological District where landowner permission has been granted have now been surveyed and a public report is currently under development.

There is currently no formal recording of which Significant Native Habitat (SNH) sites are being actively managed or monitoring in place to determine whether any management undertaken is adequate to ensure the necessary protection of the natural values.



Appendix 3: How is open space managed in Tasman?

This figure shows the relationship between the Open Space Strategy and Council's other principal planning documents



Other agencies

Nelson City Council

Nelson City Council also provides a range of parks and reserves as part of its role under the Local Government act 2002.

While a small territorial authority it holds a significant area of land for the primary purpose of water supply catchments in the Maitai, Brook and Roding valleys.

Given its proximity to the Tasman District, the open space areas that the Nelson City Council provides, are inevitably used by Tasman residents in the same way the Nelson residents enjoy open spaces with Tasman District. Saxton Field, part owned by each Council is the 'flagship' reserve that demonstrates the interdependence of use and provision of open spaces between the two Councils.

Long Term Plan

The Nelson City Council Long Term Plan (LTP) outlines the activities and the services that Council is planning to provide over the coming 10 years.

Within the current LTP for Nelson City there are budgets set aside for the development and maintenance of Council owned open space areas adjacent to Tasman District such as Saxton Field that contributes to the available open space for Tasman Residents and visitors.

Resource Management Plan

The Nelson City Council Long Term Plan provides a variety of mechanisms to ensure open space values such as landscape, recreation or biodiversity within its area are adequately protected. This has a benefit or those Tasman residents living in close proximity to the Nelson City boundary.

Activity Management Plans

The activity management plan that most influen es open space within Tasman, is the Parks and Reserves Activity Management Plan (2012). This plan identifies the ongoing need for the maintenance and development of reserves and open spaces within the Nelson City area including those close to or adjoining the boundary with Tasman. It contains similar levels of service targets to the Tasman **District Council including:**

- 500m accessibility to neighbourhood reserves within the residential zone
- Target neighbourhood reserve size of 2500m2 (with a least half usable)
- 2.5 hectares of Sportsfield per 1000 popul tion
- Consider purchase of areas of land with significant natural or cultural values only if recreation values also present otherwise encourage protection through rules or covenant of private land.

Reserve Management Plans

The joint Saxton Field Management Plan reinforces the importance to continue developing and enhanced this reserve for the benefit of both councils.

The Esplanade and Foreshore Reserve Management Plan reinforces the need to protect and enhance riparian margins, which is positive policy direction for both the Saxton Creek and lower Reservoir Creek which are located all (or in case of Reservoir Creek partly) within the Nelson City Boundary.

The Conservation and Landscape Reserve Management Plan identifies the oppo tunities for further protection and enhancement of recreational access in reserves such as Barnicoat and the Roding that adjoin or are located close to Tasman District.

Department of Conservation

The Department of Conservation administers a significant area of land within the Tasman District (>50% of the total land area) The majority of these areas are important scenic, natural and recreational assets for the region.

It provides a variety of recreational opportunities and protects some of the region's most important natural, landscape and cultural heritage values.

Conservation Management Strategies

Conservation Management Strategies and plans are tools provided for under the Conservation Act 1987 to implement general policies and establish objectives for the integrated management of natural and historic resources, including any species managed by the Department, and for recreation, tourism and other conservation purposes.

Appendix 3: How is open space managed in Tasman?

The current operative Conservation Management Strategy for the Nelson Marlborough Conservancy (as it was) was produced in 1996 and is therefore somewhat out of date. It does however reinforce the importance of protecting and providing for continued recreational access and enjoyment of existing public conservation land in the conservancy. It also recognises the importance of preserving the "full range of features that in the aggregate, gave New Zealand its original natural character" which includes seeking to protect areas of private land either through purchase or protective covenant (Reserves Act 1977, Conservation Act 1987 or QEII Act 1977).

Criteria for protection include rarity, representativeness, diversity, naturalness, level of threat and the potential for public benefit .

The Department's North & Western South Island Region does not have any general funding allocation for this purpose but relies on the Nature Heritage Fund and Nga Whenua Rahui (Maori owned land) or the QEII National Trust, in the case of Open Space Protective Covenants.

Given the current priorities and workload of the Department there are not expected to be any significant additional open space acquisitions likely to take place within the Tasman District in the immediate future. However opportunities to make minor acquisitions to improve the protection and functionality of existing public conservation land or habitats for threatened species protection are likely to be pursued.

Parks and Reserve Management Plans

There are three National Parks within Tasman District (Kahurangi, Abel Tasman and Nelson Lakes) all which have management plans as provided for under the National Parks Act 1980. Both the Act and each of these management plans places a strong emphasis on the primary purpose for these parks to be maintained in natural state, and for the public to have right of entry, use and enjoyment of these areas.

Specific reserve management plans are also in place for the Kaiteriteri Recreation Reserve (2014, prepared by the Kaiteriteri Recreation Reserve Board), Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve (2012) and Te Waikorupupū Springs (2009). Each of these documents also has a strong emphasis of providing for public use and enjoyment while protecting and enhancing other values.

The Abel Tasman National Park Management Plan (2008) identifies other a eas of public conservation land and several unformed legal roads adjoining the park that should be stopped and added to the park.

In addition the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve Management Plan identifies a short length of unformed legal road in the estuary at Frenchman Bay/Potikitawa that should be resumed or stopped and re-classified as scenic reserve as well as a number of areas of unalienated Crown land on the Abel Tasman coast that should be re-classified as national park or scenic reserve, whichever is the most appropriate. It is also suggested that the foreshore in front of the Abel Tasman memorial (part of Abel Tasman National Park) should be added to the reserve.

The Department of Conservation, in conjunction with the Nature Heritage Fund considers opportunities to acquire land adjoining National Parks and Reserves where these enhance or further protect the natural and recreational values of these special places.

Natural Heritage Management System

In recent years the DOC has changed the way it manages New Zealand's natural heritage. This new system known as the Natural Heritage Management System (NHMS) has two components:

- A national system to monitor and report on New Zealand's biodiversity
- A range of processes that identify conservation priorities in a national context.

While the biodiversity monitoring and reporting system is designed for DOC's own requirements, it has the ability to deliver the full New Zealand picture with the participation of New Zealand's other biodiversity managers. Access to new, regularly updated, and more easily shared data will result in better decisions, leading to improved conservation outcomes that support the healthy environment New Zealand needs for its economic and social wellbeing.

The priority setting processes will also be useful to local government, communities, whanau, hapu, and iwi, research agencies and others in their own conservation work by providing identified n tional priorities that will assist in better targeting effort in a more coordinated way that will, in its view, deliver the best conservation outcomes for New Zealanders.

The priority setting process is based around six key objectives:

- 1. A full range of New Zealand's ecosystems is conserved to a healthy functioning state
- 2. Nationally threatened species are conserved to ensure persistence
- 3. Nationally iconic natural features are maintained or restored
- 4. Nationally iconic species are managed to ensure their populations are maintained or restored
- 5. Locally treasured natural heritage is maintained or restored through partnerships
- 6. Public conservations lands, waters and species are held for now and future generations

Destination Management Framework

The Department of Conservation has also changed the way it manages the provision of recreation opportunities.

A set of tools and standards called the "Destination Management Framework" (DMF) will provide a transparent framework to guide the way that DOC will manage recreation and historic opportunities. The tools and standards will set clearer priorities, and to monitor and report on the effectiveness of the recreation and historic heritage work.

The Department acknowledges that it must work with others - community, iwi, business and local government - to encourage more people to participate in outdoor recreation, and considers the Conservation Management Strategy process which is likely to recommence during 2014/15 as the best means to do this.

Ministry of Education

The Ministry of Education owns multiple areas of land within the Tasman District. This land is primarily held for the purposes of schools and other educational facilities, but also comprises large areas of open space that are generally available for community use outside of school hours.¹⁰ The exception to this is pre-school facilities that are generally enclosed and not available for general public use.

The Ministry of Education has produced a strategy for school property (The New Zealand School Property Strategy 2011-2021). This document focuses on management for education purposes and does not

provide any policy guidance in regards to the community use and open space function that school grounds also provide.

Individual School Boards of Trustees make their own policies regarding the management of school grounds under the property occupation agreements each hold with the Ministry. The vast majority of schools within the Tasman District are open access to community use after hours and all provide a visual open space function to the communities that they are located within.

Land Information New Zealand (LINZ)

LINZ administers all Crown land not allocated specifically to another government department. Within Tasman District there are extensive areas of unalienated Crown land (such as riverbeds etc) that are available and accessible as areas of public open space.

In addition, LINZ administers Crown Land currently subject to Crown forest licences, many of which provide for public access easements and protective covenants for remnant native forest areas. Within Tasman, these include the extensive Golden Downs Forest, Waimea Forest, Motueka West Bank Forests and forests in the Waikoropupu Valley in Golden Bay.

In November 2009, the government announced a streamlined approach to ensuring certain values are considered when Crown land is disposed of.

All government agencies, including State-owned enterprises (SOEs) and Crown entities, have been advised that the government's expectation that all agencies will ensure significant values on land proposed for disposal are considered and protected before disposal of land.

These values include:

- Conservation values
- Historic places, such as archaeological, historic, and wahi tapu sites
- Recreational values
- Sites of heritage and cultural significance to Maori
- Land with potential for use in future Treaty settlements.

Guidelines developed by LINZ provide guidance on identifying whether any such values are present, seeking expert advice and, if necessary, developing a response to proactively protect such values.

¹⁰ Policy regarding public access of school grounds after hours is set by the relevant Board of Trustees for that school.

Appendix 3: How is open space managed in Tasman?

Apart from Treaty Settlement land transfers and sales, there is no significant open space land within the Tasman District currently being considered for disposal by LINZ or and other government agency.

OEII National Trust

QEII National Trust is an independent agency established to foster conservation of open space (land of natural and cultural importance) in private ownership throughout New Zealand. Its main mechanism is the formal registration and protective management of Open Space Covenants. These stay in private ownership but the values they were created for are legally protected in perpetuity. As at 30 June 2013 there were 140 existing covenants in the Tasman District. They vary in size from less than a hectare to 641 hectares with an average size of 15 hectares. They collectively cover about 2400 ha. Most are lowland forest remnants, but there are also those that protect coastal forest, estuarine margins, freshwater wetlands, montane vegetation, geological and landscape features and archaeological sites.

The QEII National Trust is primarily guided by the Statement of National Priorities for Biodiversity plus the UN Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 which has five primary goals:

- Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and
- Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use
- Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity
- Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building

The Trust does not proactively pursue specific areas of land for open space covenants but in response to an enquiry from an interested landowner, will evaluate an area proposed against criteria including ecological and biodiversity values, naturalness, sustainability, wildlife, geological features, landscape values, cultural and heritage values. The evaluation will also consider management needs and motivations, threats to the site and potential sources of funding. The QEII Trust Board will consider the evaluation and approve the covenant if it meets the criteria. The landowner is then asked to sign the covenant agreement which is registered on the title.

lwi

Tiakina te Taiao via their Māori cultural impact assessment (MCIA) for the 2013 General Reserves Polices provided an invaluable document outlining the cultural significance of reserve lands (Ngā tikanga ake o ngā whenua Rāhui) to mana whenua iwi. It outlines the mana whenua iwi worldview, the history of Tenths Reserves and Occupation Reserves and the specific a eas of protection needed.

These include:

- Whakangungua te mauri o te whenua me te wai -Protecting the mauri of reserve lands and waterways
- Tiakina te wao nui a Tāne Protecting indigenous habitats, biodiversity and associated mātauranga
- Kia mau kē ki ngā tikanga o ōu mātau tūpuna -Maintaining customary use
- Whakamarumarutia ngā wāhi tapu me ngā wāhi taonga - Protection of wāhi tapu and wāhi taonga associated with reserve lands
- Kia mau ki ngā tikanga Māori me te mātauranga Māori - Use of mātauranga and application of tikanga

A further document, the draft lwi Management Plan (IMP) has been prepared by Iwi under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). This plan also documents the Maori worldview (Te ao Māori) and the resulting interests and aspirations for the management of natural resources within the district. Once finalised, it will help Councillors and staff to better understand these issues and ability to integrate these into the Council's planning processes.

As part of the Treaty of Waitangi settlement process, a number of areas within Tasman District will be vested back to Ti Tau Ihu iwi (Te Atiawa, Ngāti Tama, Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Koata, Ngati Kuia and Ngati Toa Rangitira) subject to specific conditions including protection of existing public access and in some cases conservation covenants for parts of the sites. In some cases such as Kaka Point at Kaiteriteri the settlement agreements provide for the land to be vested back to the Crown to manage the land as reserve as a gift from iwi to the people of New Zealand.

Iwi Management Plans are being prepared at the time of writing this Strategy. They are an expression of rangatiratanga to help iwi and hapū exercise their kaitiaki roles and responsibilities. They are a written statement identifying important issues regarding the use of natural and physical resources in their area. They must be taken into account when Council makes a decision under the Resource Management Act.

A number of Te Tau Ihu Iwi Statutory Acknowledgement Areas apply in the District as well. They are an acknowledgement by the Crown of Iwi's special relationship with identified areas, particularly their cultural, spiritual, historical, and traditional association with those areas. The purposes of Statutory

Acknowledgements are to ensure Iwi's association with certain significant areas are identified, that lwi is informed when a proposal may affect one of these areas and to improve the implementation of RMA processes, in particular by requiring consent authorities to have regard to Statutory Acknowledgements when making decisions on the identification of affected parties.

Wakatū Incorporation

The Wakatū Incorporation was formed in 1977 by the descendants of the original owners of the Tenths Reserves to manage the land and assets previously managed by the Māori Trustee. It holds significant landholdings within the Tasman District, some of which, such as areas at Marahau, Coastal Motueka and the Riwaka Valley, are important open space areas.

The majority of the Wakatū Incorporation lands are held for the purposes of producing a return for its shareholders, either through commercial property development, residential subdivision and leases and agricultural farms, orchards and vineyards.

The rural land interests do also include areas of riverbed and foreshore that are used by the community without any knowledge of the ownership of the land. A number of the rural areas contain sites of cultural importance and are managed to protect these values. At times this results in tension regarding public access such as current restrictions regarding access to Wakatū land at the Marahau foreshore.

Forestry Companies

A number of commercial plantation forests within the Tasman District have historically been available for some public use and enjoyment as well as providing and contributing to the rural landscape character. Large areas of Crown forest land such as Golden Downs Forest are subject to licences to Forestry Companies¹¹. As well as managing the forests to allow public access easements to be used when management and fire hazard conditions allow, the companies generally provide for limited other use of the forests by the community under an entry permit system. Most comercial forest areas do not otherwise provide free and open public access.

A & P Associations

There are several A&P Associations within the Tasman District that own and make available important areas

of land as public open spaces. The Nelson A&P Association owns approximately 40 hectares of land in Lower Queen Street in Richmond, which as well as being used for the annual show is used for a range of community uses during the year. The Motueka A&P Association owns Marchwood Park (almost 13 hectares) which contains a number of protected native trees as well as wide open spaces, extensive seating, shade, and building facilities. The Golden Bay A&P Assocation owns almost 1.2 hectares near Takaka, while the Murchison A&P Association relies on Council facilities.

No strategies exist regarding the use of A&P land for open space purposes. However, the associations do want to enable continued public access for the community.

Walking Access New Zealand

Walking Access NZ does not directly provide open space, but facilitates the provision by others by seeking agreements to legalise access across private land and providing signposting and other information to make the community aware of public access opportunities.

The New Zealand Walking Access Commission is guided by its Statement of Intent 2013-2016. In this document the primary action areas include:

- Maintaining and enhancing access opportunities
- Providing information and advice on access
- Responding to access enquiries
- Building collaboration with access stakeholders
- Informing the public about access

Specific priorities for the 2014 year are to identify and secure access opportunities, to continue working towards greater clarity and certainty regarding existing access opportunities through the use of the web based Walking Access Mapping System (WAMS) and to continue to manage a fund to facilitate access projects instigated and managed by individuals, groups and organisations across New Zealand – the Enhanced Access Fund (EAF).

There is also a desire to develop an action plan on developing external third party in conjunction with possible partners such as local government.

¹¹ The largest two forestry companies are Tasman Bays Forests Ltd and Nelson Forests Ltd.



Appendix 4: Extent of open space areas within each Ward, at June 2014



