

Reserve Management Plan

Ruatihi o Paeroa Scenic Reserve

FINAL DRAFT

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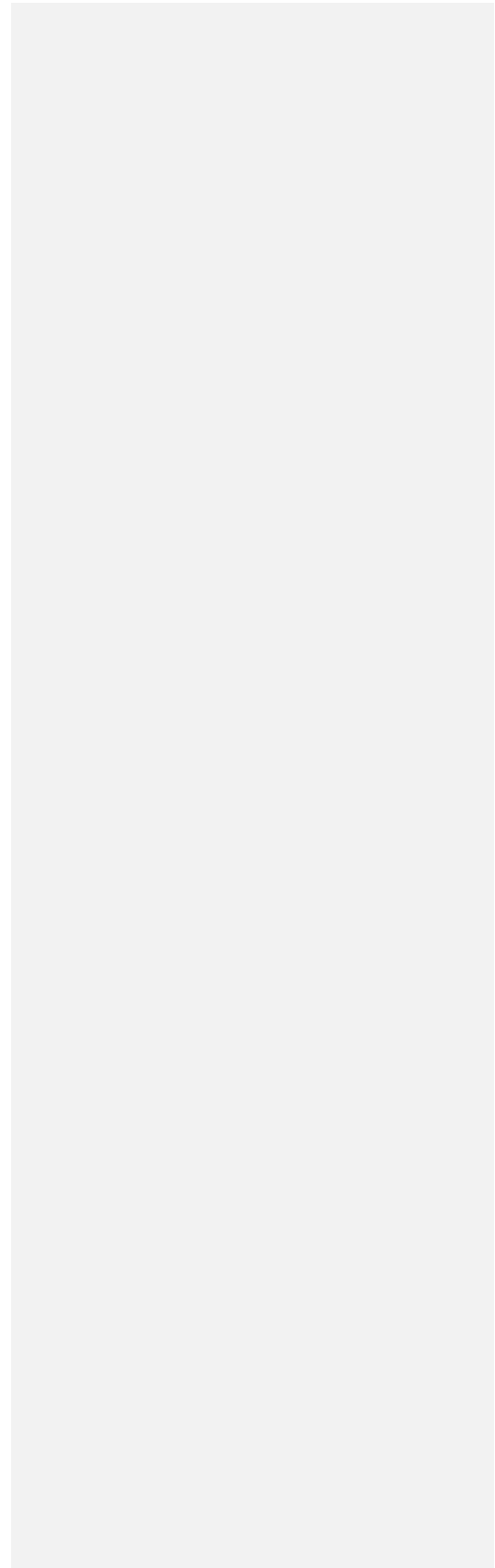
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Part 1: Background and Legislative Context

1.0 Ruatihi o Paeroa Scenic Reserve

Ruatihi o Paeroa Scenic Reserve comprises 83.62 hectares of indigenous vegetation within two distinct parcels of land on the two highest peaks of the Paeroa Range. The Paeroa Range is located between the Reporoa Basin and the Whirinaki Arm of Lake Ohakuri on the Waikato River and is approximately 40km south of Rotorua in the Central North Island of New Zealand. The location of the reserve is shown in Figure 1.

The Paeroa Range and the surrounding area hold significant cultural values for the Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa people who hold mana whenua in this area. The area also has historic context for European settlement.

The Reserve is contiguous with Te Kopia Scenic Reserve which is administered by the Department of Conservation. Jointly, these reserves cover a significant portion of the Paeroa Range and comprise over 2,200 hectares of indigenous vegetation. They form part of one of the largest remaining area of intact indigenous forest in the Upper Waikato River catchment. Ruatihi o Paeroa Scenic Reserve is valuable for its role in protecting and enhancing a range of values including cultural, biodiversity, soil conservation and ecosystem services.

The Paeroa Range forms part of a distinct geological fault sequence which links with other volcanism and geothermal activity in the general area. The range has steep scarps on the western side and sloping to rolling land to the east. It has high landscape values with Ruatihi o Paeroa Scenic Reserve being the most visible and covering the two distinct peaks.

Ruatihi o Paeroa Scenic Reserve was formed through Treaty of Waitangi settlement processes (Affiliate Te Arawa Iwi and Hapu Claims Settlement Act 2008) and has been in existence as a separate reserve since July 2009. The reserve used to form part of the wider Te Kopia Scenic Reserve. Ruatihi o Paeroa Scenic Reserve was administered by Te Pūmāutanga Trust between settlement and January 2014. Subsequent land ownership was transferred to Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa Trustees and administration transferred to Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa Runanga Trust (the Runanga). Ownership and administration arrangements are further outlined in Part 2 of this Plan.

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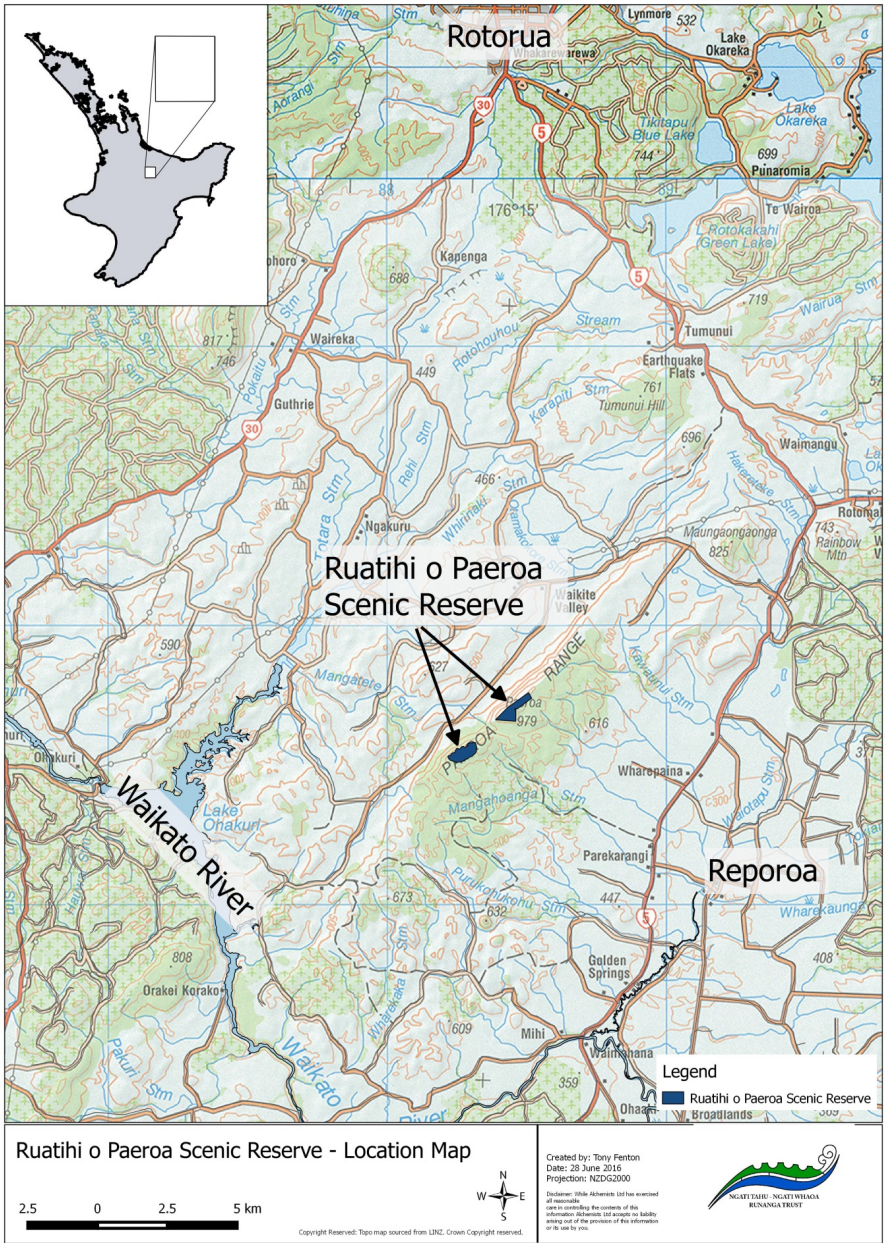


Figure 1: General location of Ruatihu o Paeroa Scenic Reserve

2.0 Historic and Cultural Associations

The Paeroa Range has a long and rich cultural and historic history. Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa hold te mana o runga te whenua over the Paeroa Range area which falls in the heart of the Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa rohe. The pou whenua of Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa are captured circa the following korero:

*Mai i Te Waiheke o Huka, whakarawhiti atu ki te mania o Kaingaroa
Ko te tihi o Maunga Kakaramea
Putu atu ki e Pae Maunga o Paeroa
Orakei Korako Te Ukaipo
Tai rawa atu ki Pohaturoa*

Nga taonga tuku iho o Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa

The origins of “Tahu Matua” the eponymous ancestor of the Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa people can be traced back to his arrival on the shores of Aotearoa – New Zealand in 1250AD. His migration to these shores took place more than a century prior to the arrival of the Arawa, Mataatua and Tainui waka. Acclaimed historians (Maori and non-Maori) generally accept that these waka arrived in Aotearoa – New Zealand circa 1350AD.

Tahu Matua navigated the central North Island on a journey of discovery finally domiciling himself and his people on the banks of the Waikato River at Orakei Korako, the Ukaipo (birthplace) of the descendants of Tahu Matua. The Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa iwi are a river people having occupied the lands adjacent to and extending beyond the Waikato River for more than 750 years.

Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa tikanga is that the iwi attribute the mana over our lands to our eponymous ancestors. We recognise our eponymous ancestor, Tahumatua, as the one who held the mana over our lands in the first instance and subsequently our ancestor Whaoa exerted mana over the land in the Paeroa ranges and Paeroa East. Descendants of all our tupuna maintain mana over these lands on the basis of take kitea (right by discovery) and take tupuna (right by ancestry).

It is generally accepted that Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa are the only remaining aboriginal tribe of the Central North Island of New Zealand.

2.1 Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa history and association with the Paeroa Range

All areas within the wider rohe of Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa were linked and the people used these various areas seasonally or for specific purposes. There were many kainga (settlements), cultivations, urupa, tuahu and other locations which were used for different purposes including provision of food and materials, warmth, protection and refuge.

The original forests in the area provided an abundance of kai sources such as fern root and birds as well as indigenous trees for making waka and various other materials for making tools and whare. Ngawha around the area provided warmth and bathing. Various locations also provided micro climates for planted cultivations including the growing of kumara.

As well as Ruatihu o Paeroa Scenic Reserve, Maunga Kakaramea (Rainbow Mountain) is also of high cultural importance to Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa and the history associated with this area reinforces tribal identity, solidarity and continuity between generations. Red ochre was harvested from the area with its chief application was a mix with shark oil that was applied to the face and body of the

highly ranked at major ceremonial occasions. The same mix would be applied to those of high rank before going into battle. Red ochre was also used as a dye for raranga (weaving), and painting kowhaiwhai patterns and whakairo (carvings). The ochre was traded for various other commodities such as timbers and pounamu.

Areas around the wider Paeroa Range and Maunga Kakaramea held pa which were places of refuge and battles. Burial grounds are also present in different areas including the burial site of one of the prominent ancestors of Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa – Maaka. Tahumatua is the eponymous ancestor from whom the tribe derive part of its name.

Large areas of flax and wetlands which would have been historically present in and around both the Reporoa Basin and the nearby Waikite Valley. These areas would have provided birds for food as well as flax for weaving.

Various tracks linked these resources and areas together. Tracks also provided links to the rest of the Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa rohe to the west, east and south of these sites and between the lowlands and the Paeroa Range.

2.2 European history

European settlement in and around the Paeroa Range was similar to general European settlement throughout the North Island. Missionaries were often first to settle and were followed by explorers and then by the Armed Constabulary. After any resistance and hostilities were overcome, land speculators often followed. Speculators searched for an exploited natural resources and land was cleared for farming and agricultural use.

Missionary stations had been established at Rotorua, Tarawera and Taupo by the 1850's and settlements in between these areas were visited regularly. The Armed Constabulary became more active around the Paeroa Range during the 1870's and began building roads which included a bridal track from Rotorua to the Paeroa Range which was finished in 1873. There were military camps located at Lake Opouri (Ngapouri) and at Te Kohanga Taheke which is on the eastern side of the range just north of the Mangahoanga Stream.

Prospecting for gold began in the central North Island in the late 1800's after gold was discovered in the Coromandel and Waihi areas. Prospecting in and around the Paeroa Range did not prove to be profitable.

The areas around Waikite and Whirinaki Valley (to the west of the Paeroa Range) were a focus for flax milling particularly around the Otamakokore Stream.

Indigenous timber milling began in the early 20th century around the area and historic European settlement was associated with this industry. Signs of indigenous timber milling are evident on the lower eastern slopes of the Paeroa Range where there are mill sites, saw pits and the remnants of building platforms (Phillips, 2000).

3.0 Purpose of this Management Plan

The primary purpose of this Management Plan is to set out the management requirements for the Ruatihi o Paeroa Scenic Reserve.

For use in this plan and for the purposes of management of Ruatihi o Paeroa Scenic Reserve, the administering body is the Runanga. In this role, the Runanga has the responsibility of preparing policy for the management of reserves that it controls. 'Reserve Management Plans' are required under Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977 which outline the Runanga's general intentions for reserve use, development, maintenance, protection and preservation.

The Administration Committee is the Runanga Board of Trustees and is responsible for the overall implementation and management of the reserve.

This plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977. These requirements are set out in Appendix 1. In accordance with section 41(11) of the Reserves Act 1977, the administering body is required to comply with this Reserve Management Plan in exercising its functions as the reserve administering body.

The Runanga has included many objectives and policies in this reserve management plan relating to these provisions. However, in all cases, the statutory requirements of the Reserves Act 1977 will apply regardless of whether they are repeated in this document.

The plan was adopted by the Runanga on XXXXX

4.0 Plan Preparation

The preparation of a reserve management plan is required within 5 years of an administering body being appointed (Section 41 a Reserves Act 1977). The plan must be submitted to the Minister of Conservation for their approval.

Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977 prescribes the process by which a reserve management plan shall be prepared or reviewed (Section 41 (5, 5A and 6).

For Ruatihi o Paeroa Scenic Reserve, the Runanga Board agreed by resolution that public suggestions (Section 41 (5A) of the Reserves Act 1977) would not materially assist in its preparation. The Runanga have sought input from key stakeholders with an interest in the reserve. Consideration has been given to the input provided by these stakeholders in the preparation of this plan.

The provision of this plan in draft for public suggestions meets the criteria set out in Section 41 (6) of the Reserves Act 1977.

5.0 Purpose of the Reserve

Ruatihī o Paeroa Reserve is classified as a Scenic Reserve under Section 19(1)(a) of the Reserves Act 1977. The primary purpose of a Scenic Reserve is:

“For the purpose of protecting and preserving in perpetuity for their intrinsic worth and for the benefit, enjoyment, and use of the public, suitable areas possessing such qualities of scenic interest, beauty or natural features or landscape that their protection and preservation are desirable in the public interest”.

The Runanga will administer the reserve in accordance with this purpose and the wider provisions contained in Section 19(2) of the Reserves Act 1977 and apply these provisions in its function as the reserve administrator (these provisions are set out in full in Appendix 2).

Other considerations within the Reserves Act 1977 also relate to requirements for approvals and interaction with the Minister of Conservation through the Department of Conservation for various matters of administration and management of the reserve. Section 55(1) of the Reserves Act 1977 provides the administering body with the ability to undertake activities considered desirable or necessary for the management, administration and control of the reserve. This includes options to restrict entry to the reserve to allow part or all of the Reserve to regenerate and provides for the construction of infrastructure including footpaths and driveways, and the alteration of watercourses to enable the management or public access and enjoyment of the reserve.

6.0 Other statutory matters

In addition to provisions through the Reserves Act 1977, other considerations in the management and administration of the reserve include both Territorial and Regional authority policy and planning documents.

Ruatihī o Paeroa Scenic Reserve falls within the Rotorua District (Rotorua Lakes Council) and the Waikato Region (Waikato Regional Council). Key policy and planning documents relevant to the administration and management of the reserve are summarised below.

6.1 Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River (Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato)

Ruatihī o Paeroa Scenic Reserve is located within the Waikato River catchment and has a role to play in assisting in achieving Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato. The Runanga, as reserve administrators, will have regard to the Vision and Strategy in its management of the reserve.

The Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River (Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato) is:

“Our Vision is for a future where a healthy Waikato River sustains abundant life and prosperous communities who, in turn, are all responsible for restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River, and all it embraces, for generations to come”

The Vision and Strategy was published in 2008 by the Waikato River Authority and provides the overarching goal to support fundamental principles established through settlement processes between Waikato River iwi and the Crown.

6.2 Waikato Regional Policy Statement and Waikato Regional Plan

The Waikato Regional Policy Statement (RPS) contains a large number of objectives and policies directed at promoting the sustainable management of the natural and physical resources of the Waikato Region. In relation to Ruatihi o Paeroa Scenic Reserve, the objectives (and their associated policies) that need to be applied are set out in Appendix 3.

The Waikato Regional Plan also provides the rules and regulations to achieve the RPS.

6.3 Rotorua District Plan (Rotorua Lakes Council)

The Rotorua District Plan (June 2016) identifies that parts of Ruatihi o Paeroa Scenic Reserve fall within an area identified as an Outstanding Natural Feature or Landscape. The reserve falls within the feature identified as "Paeroa Range Western Scarps". The northern parcel of the reserve land is fully within the feature while approximately fifty percent of the southern land parcel of the reserve is included.

Various parts of the Rotorua District Plan have specific restrictions and policy in relation to activities within Outstanding Natural Features or Landscapes. In the case of Ruatihi o Paeroa Scenic Reserve these primarily relate to activities associated with:

- Earthworks;
- Maintenance of existing infrastructure including access/farm tracks and walking tracks;
- Construction of new infrastructure including access/farm tracks and walking tracks;
- Construction of new buildings or structures;
- Mining and quarrying;
- Removal of indigenous vegetation;
- Planting of Plantation forestry.

The Runanga will apply these provisions in its function as the reserve administrator and has applied them in the preparation of this plan.

The Runanga also acknowledge the consideration of other District Plan rules in addition to those specific to Outstanding Natural Features or landscapes for management of the Reserve. These rules relate to land use, building consent processes as well as the preservation of cultural and heritage sites and values. The Runanga will apply any other relevant Rotorua District Plan provisions as the reserve administrator as required.

Part 2: Management of the Reserve

Part 2 of this plan outlines provides information on the values, vision and objectives for the reserve as well as management and guidance on the structure and use of this plan.

7.0 Values of Ruatihi o Paeroa Scenic Reserve

The values of the reserve illustrate the significance and worth of the Scenic Reserve to the Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa people as well as its importance to others. The values which guide this plan are:

- The historic and contemporary importance of the reserve and the general area to the Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa people for cultural sites, korero, waiata and wahi tapu;
- The role of the reserve as part of a wider tract of indigenous forest for preservation and enhancement of biodiversity (flora and fauna), soil conservation and water quality within the Upper Waikato River catchment;
- The role of the reserve in assisting in provision of ecosystem services to the Upper Waikato River catchment;
- The ability of the reserve (and the surrounding range) to provide enhanced aesthetic and landscape values from both the Reporoa basin and the Whirinaki arm;
- The role of the reserve in the provision of recreational values in conjunction with the wider Paeroa Range.

8.0 Vision for Ruatihi o Paeroa Scenic Reserve

The Runanga has the following Vision for Ruatihi o Paeroa Scenic Reserve:

***Ruatihi o Paeroa Scenic Reserve is valued and safe
guarded for future generations.***

This vision has been developed to guide the management and use of the reserve. The vision represents a goal developed by the Runanga of what, over time, the effective management of the reserve will lead to. The objectives and associated policies have been developed with an aim to implement and achieve the vision.

9.0 Primary Objectives for the reserve

Taking into account the primary purpose of the reserve¹, the following objectives have been formulated for Ruatihi o Paeroa Scenic Reserve. These objectives provide guidance and link the primary purpose and vision to the policies and methods outlined in Part 3 of this plan.

¹ as classified in Section 19 (1)(a) of the Reserves Act 1977

To achieve the purpose and vision for the reserve, this management plan will focus on achieving the following objectives:

1. The values of the Reserve are recognised and protected.
2. Cultural sites are respected, preserved and shared.
3. Indigenous flora and fauna (including threatened species) and the integrity (ecosystem health) of the forest are maintained at a level which supports a range, diversity and quantity of indigenous species which could be expected in this geographical area.
4. The reserve provides a source of indigenous flora and fauna to extend beyond the reserve boundaries to increase biodiversity throughout the rohe.
5. Recognise and protect the ecosystem services of the Reserve.
6. An integrated pest management approach is taken for management actions within the reserve (pest plants and animals).
7. The maintenance of forest ecosystem health contributes to the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River by providing soil conservation values through healthy and intact indigenous forest headwaters and assisting in providing habitat for freshwater fauna.
8. Recreational activities are provided for and enhanced where possible.

These eight objectives will be achieved through the enactment of policies and methods outlined within this management plan.

9.1 Location of Ruatihi o Paeroa Scenic Reserve

Ruatihi o Paeroa Scenic Reserve is located approximately 40 kilometres south of Rotorua and is primarily surrounded by Te Kopia Scenic Reserve which is administered by the Department of Conservation. A small area at the peak of the northern block is owned by Broadcast Telecommunications Limited.

The Ruatihi o Paeroa Scenic Reserve consists of the two peaks of the Paeroa Range and run in a north south direction. There is no road or track which connects the two parcels of land although access can be made by traversing on foot through part of the Te Kopia Scenic Reserve. Figure 2 provides a detailed location map for the reserve.

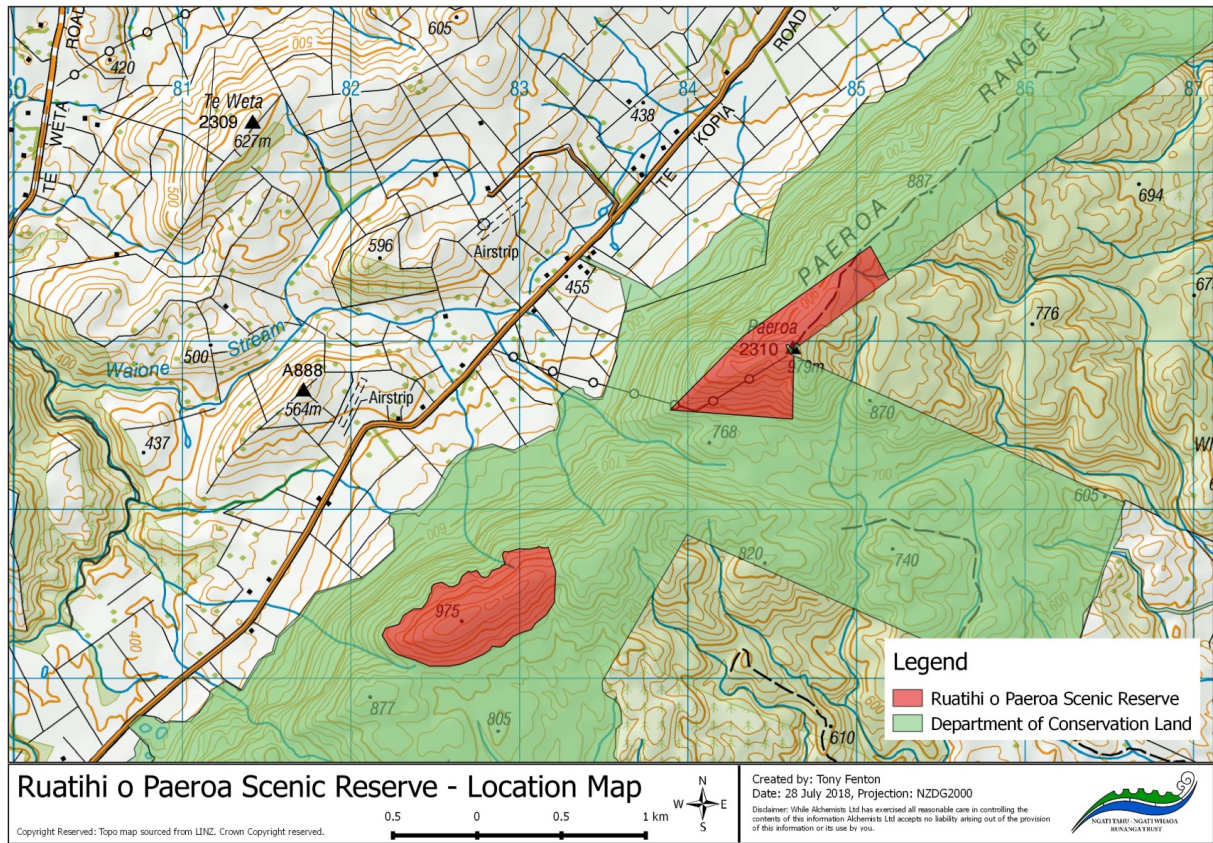


Figure 2: Ruatihu o Paeroa Scenic Reserve

9.2 Reserve Administration:

Ruatihī o Paeroa Scenic Reserve was formed through Treaty of Waitangi settlement processes (Affiliate Te Arawa Iwi and Hapu Claims Settlement Act 2008) and has been in existence as a separate Scenic Reserve since 2009. The name is not specific to this site but represents that the reserve encompasses the two peaks of the range which people primarily identify with and look towards.

The reserve was initially transferred to Te Pūmāutanga Trust who were the reserve administrators until 2014. Ruatihī o Paeroa Scenic Reserve was, prior to settlement processes, part of Te Kōpia Scenic Reserve administered by the Department of Conservation.

In 2014 land ownership was transferred to Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whāoa Trustees and administration transferred to Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whāoa Runanga Trust. The Runanga is the iwi authority for the Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whāoa people and is the entity appointed to receive settlement redress on behalf of the iwi. The Runanga are the administering body for Ruatihī o Paeroa Scenic Reserve.

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The Runanga Board is the Ruatihī o Paeroa Scenic Reserve's Administering Committee for the purposes of management and administration of the reserve. The Board consists of one representative from each Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whāoa marae (4 representatives), one representative from Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whāoa Land Trusts, one representative from the Kaumatua Kanihera (Council of Elders) and one honorary member.

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The Runanga in its role as an administering body is responsible for the administration and management of Ruatihī o Paeroa Scenic Reserve in accordance with this management plan and the Reserves Act 1977 and various other legislative requirements.

The Ruatihī o Paeroa Scenic Reserve is vested as fee simple with Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whāoa Trustees. The Reserve comprises a land area of 83.6235 hectares and has the following legal description: *Identifier: 490836, South Auckland, Section 1 Survey Office plan 389459 and Section 1 Survey Office Plan 387596*

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9.3 How to use this plan

This management plan provides the framework to guide the Runanga in decisions relating to the management of the reserve. This plan also provides guidance to central, regional and local government in their planning processes that may encompass Ruatihī o Paeroa Scenic Reserve.

Additionally, this plan provides guidance to businesses, the general public and reserve users as to the management requirements, policy and methods in the general use of the Reserve.

The Primary Objectives in Section 6 and the associated policies contained throughout this Plan are considered to have statutory weight, and activities are not permitted that contravene these sections. These statutory provisions have been developed to ensure that the Ruatihī o Paeroa Scenic Reserve;

- Is used and managed in a manner that best protects the important values associated with the reserve,
- Implements the vision for the reserve (Section 5), and
- Is consistent with the statutory framework associated with the reserve.

Figure 3 provides the hierarchy and links between sections of this plan.

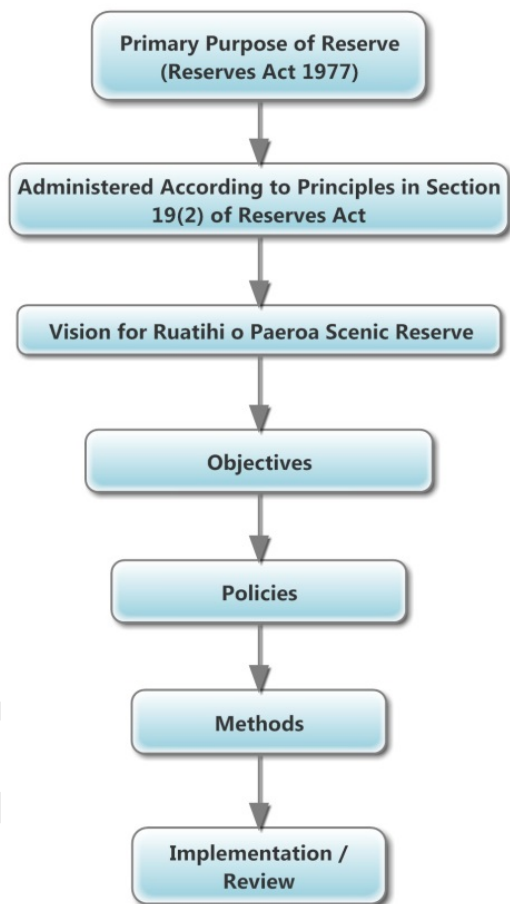


Figure 3: Flow diagram of plan hierarchy

Part 3: Management of reserve values and resources

Part 3 outlines the relevant policies and methods to guide management of the reserve to achieve the Vision and Objectives of this plan.

10.0 Management of historical and cultural heritage

The Ruatihu o Paeroa Scenic Reserve and the Paeroa range in general was utilised by Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa for over 750 years for various purposes. The area holds sites of significance to iwi including urupa, historic kainga, tupuna tracks, pa and various other areas utilised for particular purposes. Most of these sites are not recorded in official records as archaeological sites but are held in knowledge by iwi.

This connection with the reserve and general area places high importance on the management of historic and cultural heritage both within the reserve and along the Paeroa range in general.

Sections 3(1)(a)(v) and 19(2)(d) of the Reserves Act 1977 seek to preserve and manage the historic, cultural and archaeological features or values on the reserve. Section 94(1)(m) also makes it an offence to damage historic features within the reserve.

As part of reserve management as well as mana whenua, the Runanga holds sensitive knowledge on cultural sites and other locations within the reserve and wider area.

Policies

1. The Runanga will choose with care how it applies and / or reveals sensitive knowledge during management of the reserve to protect wahi tapu and Maori cultural, historical and archaeological sites, relics and nga taonga tuturu within the reserve.
2. To actively manage and protect cultural, historical and archaeological values in the reserve, and to minimise the impacts of visitors and activities on cultural, historical and archaeological sites.
3. Maintain a set of protocols for cultural and archaeological finds within the reserve which meet legislative and cultural requirements.

Methods

1. Advocate and initiate information compilation of location and description of cultural sites within the reserve to enable informed management of cultural values.
2. Should not permit any activity in the reserve which has potential to contribute to further loss or damage of cultural values within the reserve.
3. Consider cultural values when assessing all activities and within the general management of the reserve, and promote actions to protect and preserve these values.
4. Advocate with other land owners and administrators for preservation of wider cultural values throughout the Paeroa Range.
5. Provide cultural and archaeological finds protocol to contractors, leaseholders and authorisation holders to implement if required.

11.0 Conservation and management of natural resources

The natural resources of Ruatihu o Paeroa Scenic Reserve provide a range of values to iwi, the local community, the wider District and the Waikato Region. These natural resources include forest ecosystems (flora and fauna), soil conservation, ecosystem services and geological and landscape values. These natural resources are discussed below.

11.1 Forest Ecosystems

The vegetation of the wider geographic area, including the Paeroa Range, has undergone considerable change over time from both human and natural influences. The most recent eruption of Taupo around 2000 years ago resulted in the destruction of existing vegetation as far north as Rotorua. The deposition of pumice from this eruption resulted in scrub and tussock regeneration and eventually the re-emergence of podocarp forests. The arrival of Maori settlement resulted in changes to some vegetation to facilitate cultivation and harvest. The arrival of European settlers also changed the nature of the remaining vegetation cover through milling and conversion of land to pasture (Phillips, 2000).

The forest of the Paeroa Range still holds important flora and fauna values and is now one of the few remaining large tracts of indigenous vegetation in the Upper Waikato catchment. The vegetation of the Paeroa Range (Te Kopia Scenic Reserve) was given a Botanical Conservation rank of exceptional by in 1995 (Beadel, 1995). This ranking was primarily due to the following key attributes:

- The range of vegetation types represented;
- The substantial area of “thermal” vegetation present in an unmodified state;
- The remnants of a historically extensive forest area which formed the transition between hardwood forests present to the north of Rotorua and the podocarp forests to the south in the Taupo area;
- The relatively large size of the area of vegetation for this geographic area.

Although all of these forest values are not represented solely within Ruatihu o Paeroa Scenic Reserve, the reserve does contribute to the wider Paeroa range through its contiguous nature with the Te Kopia Scenic Reserve and other surrounding landholdings.

11.1.1 Flora

Both parcels of land comprising Ruatihu o Paeroa Scenic Reserve are covered in secondary growth indigenous vegetation. A large proportion of the area along and around the Paeroa Range has been logged for podocarps in the past including the area now represented by the reserve. Northern rata were once plentiful throughout the range however most of these trees are now dead due to intensive historical possum damage.

The dominant vegetation type found within the reserve is Halls Totara over broadleaf /Kamahi /Tawheowheo forest (Cashmore, 2016).

A significant population of *Dactylanthus taylorii* occurs within the neighbouring Te Kopia Scenic Reserve with plants close to the boundary with Ruatihu o Paeroa Scenic Reserve. Although not surveyed and no plants recorded to date, there is a possibility *Dactylanthus taylorii* may be present in Ruatihu o Paeroa Scenic Reserve if the plants hosts (*Pittosporum eugenoides*) are available.

The mistletoe *Peraxilla tetrapetala* is also found in both Ruatihu o Paeroa and Te Kopia Scenic Reserves. *Peraxilla* has a conservation of “At Risk – Declining” (de Lange, 2013) and is at high risk

from destruction by possum browse. This mistletoe is usually found associated with Tawheowheo (*Quintinia serrata*) trees (Department of Conservation, 2015).

11.1.2 Fauna

Information specifically for Ruatihi o Paeroa Scenic reserve is limited as most surveys have focused on Te Kopia Scenic Reserve as a whole prior to being separated into two reserves. For the purposes of documenting the fauna values of the Ruatihi o Paeroa Scenic Reserve, it is assumed for mobile species such as birds, that their presence in Te Kopia Scenic Reserve will by default indicate they are or could be present in Ruatihi o Paeroa Scenic Reserve.

During monitoring in Te Kopia Scenic Reserve in 2014 and 2015 by the Department of Conservation, the following birds were identified as present (Department of Conservation, 2015). The current threat status is also identified.

| Common name | Threat Status (Robertson, H et al, 2017) |
|---|--|
| Korimako/bellbird <i>Anthornis melanura melanura</i> | Not threatened |
| Tomtit <i>Petroica macrocephala toitoi</i> | Not threatened |
| Silvereye <i>Zosterops lateralis lateralis</i> | Not threatened |
| Tui <i>Prothemadera novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae</i> | Not threatened |
| Rifleman (Titipounamu) <i>Acanthisitta chloris granti</i> | At risk – declining |
| Kereru <i>Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae</i> | Not threatened |
| Robin <i>Petroica longipes</i> | At risk - declining |
| Fantail (Piwakawaka) <i>Rhipidura fuliginosa placabilis</i> | Not threatened |
| Grey warbler <i>Gerygone igata</i> | Not threatened |
| Whitehead <i>Mohoua albicilla</i> | At risk - declining |
| Shining cuckoo <i>Chrysococcyx lucidus lucidus</i> | Not threatened |
| Long-tailed cuckoo <i>Eudynamys taitensis</i> | Naturally uncommon |

Table 1: Bird species recorded in the Paeroa Range

Other introduced bird species recorded in the area include Blackbird and various finch species.

Previous monitoring surveys in Te Kopia Scenic Reserve have included searches for bats, lizards and frogs although this work has not identified any of these animals to be present (Kelly, 2011). It should be noted that these surveys are not conclusive and have only covered small areas of the entire range.

Policies

1. To preserve the intrinsic forest ecosystem values of the reserve
2. To preserve the habitat of 'threatened' and 'at risk' species and maintain or restore the integrity and functioning of natural ecosystems throughout the reserve wherever possible.

Methods

1. Where possible and where resources permit, undertake field surveys to identify which species are present in the reserve, the pressures on these species and how the pressures may be avoided, reduced or mitigated.

2. Work with other surrounding landowners throughout the Paeroa Range to integrate management where possible to implement and achieve the objectives of this plan and the vision for the reserve.

11.2 Ecosystem services

The term ecosystem services refers to a range of processes which natural ecosystems help sustain and enhance general wellbeing of the environment.

Ruatihī o Paeroa Scenic Reserve contributes to the following ecosystem services in the area:

- a) Indigenous vegetation provides soil conservation and stability to the areas above headwaters of small streams which feed into the Waikato River;
- b) Provides additional habitat and contiguous cover with Te Kōpia Scenic Reserve;
- c) Contributes to one of the largest remaining tracts of indigenous vegetation and habitat in the Upper Waikato River catchment;
- d) Provides potential sources of natural resources for customary and medicinal use;
- e) Contributes to providing habitat for flora and fauna in the Paeroa Range to act as a source for distribution to other surrounding areas.

Of particular relevance is the contribution of the reserve and its role in working towards achieving the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River (Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato) (see Part 1 of this plan for additional context).

Policies

1. Ensure that the natural functioning of ecosystem services are maintained and enhanced where possible.

Methods

1. Take account of the ecosystem services provided by the area when making decisions about the management of the reserve.
2. Consider management decisions in context of the reserve's role in achieving the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River.
3. Advocate for protection and enhancement of ecosystem services values across the wider Paeroa range.

11.3 Geological features, landforms and landscape

Reporoa, the Paeroa Range and various other landmarks and geothermal features within the wider geographic area around the Reserve form part of the Taupo Volcanic Zone. The zone extends through the central north island, north to the Bay of Plenty and out to sea from the New Zealand Coast.

The area contains a complex history of faulting, volcanism, subsidence, uplifting and sedimentation. In the past, the area has experienced large lava flows and deposition of ignimbrite and pyroclastic deposits which have been accompanied by caldera collapse and down faulting (Wood, 1994).

The Paeroa fault forms part of this system and lies to the west of the Reporoa caldera. It extends in a north east – south west direction for over 25 kilometres. The Paeroa range forms a scarp from this fault rising 500 metres above the valley floor on the western side of the range. The scarp exposes a

series of dense, welded pyroclastic flow deposits that were placed by eruptions around 340,000 years ago (Rowland, 2012).

Ruatihī o Paeroa Scenic Reserve encompasses the two highest points on the Paeroa Range. These peaks are at heights of 979m (northern block) and 975m (southern block) above sea level and form part of a highly valued visual and landscape across the Paeroa Range.

Section 19(1)(a) of the Reserves Act 1977 recognises the landscape values of scenic reserves as ‘...areas possessing such qualities of scenic interest, beauty or natural features or landscape that their protection and preservation are desirable in the public interest’.

The Waikato Regional Policy Statement also requires that “the identified values and characteristics of outstanding natural features and landscapes of regional or district significance are protected from adverse effects, including cumulative effects, arising from inappropriate subdivision, use and development”.

It is the role of Territorial authorities to identify these outstanding landscapes at a district level. The Rotorua District plan identifies the western area of the Paeroa Range as one such landscape (Paeroa Range Western Scarps). The majority of both land parcels within the reserve are located within this area. Further detail on management of landscape values can be found in Sections 6.3 and 13.9 of this plan.

Policies

1. Manage activities and use of the reserve to protect and preserve its landscape, geological and scenic values.

Methods

1. Do not permit any activity, including any new permanent or temporary structure, in the reserve which has potential to contribute to a loss of the existing visual, geological and landscape values of the reserve.
2. The Runanga will advocate that any proposed development or activity on adjacent land is sensitive to protecting and preserving the landscape, geological and scenic values of both the Ruatihī o Paeroa Scenic Reserve and the Paeroa Range in general.

12.0 Threats to natural resources

A variety of threats have the potential to impact on the values and resources of the Ruatihī o Paeroa Scenic Reserve. These are discussed below.

12.1 Biosecurity and management of threats to indigenous species, habitats and ecosystems

12.1.1 Introduced animals

As with most forested areas within New Zealand, the Paeroa Range (including Ruatihī o Paeroa Scenic Reserve) has a suite of introduced animals present. Table 2 summarises the species known from the general area and are also likely to be present in the Reserve itself.

| Common Name | Species Name | Presence |
|--------------|--|--|
| Red Deer | <i>Cervus elaphus scoticus</i> | Known to be present in wider area |
| Possum | <i>Trichosurus Vulpecula</i> | Known to be present in wider area |
| Rat | <i>Rattus rattus/Rattus Norvegicus</i> | Known to be present in wider area |
| Pig | <i>Sus scrofa</i> | Known to be present in wider area |
| Stoat | <i>Mustela erminea</i> | Known to be present in wider area |
| Weasel | <i>Mustela nivalis</i> | Known to be present in wider area |
| Dama Wallaby | <i>Macropus eugenii</i> | Known to be present in wider area and in northern end of Te Kopia Scenic Reserve |

Table 2: Introduced animals present/likely to be present in the Reserve

Te Kopia Scenic Reserve and the wider Paeroa Range area has been actively managed for possum control since 1999 by the Department of Conservation and Waikato Regional Council. The main reason for initiating control was the deteriorating condition of the vegetation within the Te Kopia Scenic Reserve and the threat of canopy collapse if no control was initiated. Possum control operations occurred in August 1999, August 2005 and December 2012 primarily using aerial application of 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate) along with various other supplementary methods (Department of Conservation, 2012). Ruatihi o Paeroa Scenic Reserve was also included in the 2012 possum control operation.

Dama wallaby (*Macropus eugenii*) are historically known from around the Rotorua area. They are continuing to spread in range and have recently been confirmed south of the two blocks that comprise the Ruatihi o Paeroa Scenic Reserve. Status and management of Dama wallaby is outlined within the Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan. Waikato Regional Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council and the Department of Conservation work to integrate Dama wallaby management across their respective boundaries.

Red deer are present throughout the wider Paeroa range including Te Kopia Scenic Reserve. It is known that the impacts of deer are similar to those of Dama wallaby in their ability to damage forest ecosystems and alter composition and structure of indigenous forest areas.

12.1.2 Introduced plants

Across the wider range and around the margins of Te Kopia Scenic Reserve the dominant weed species are Blackberry, Buddleia, Gorse, Ragwort, Ivy species and various other farm weeds. Within the Te Kopia Scenic Reserve around geothermal areas and on the western escarpments there are area of wilding conifers including *Pinus contorta*, *Pinus radiata* and *Pinus pinaster*.

The two parcels of Ruatihi o Paeroa Scenic Reserve contain and are predominately surrounded by secondary indigenous vegetation. This vegetation extends out into the Te Kopia Scenic Reserve and provides a wide “buffer” from many marginal weed species. The pest plants found in the wider Te Kopia Scenic Reserve are not known to be found in Ruatihi o Paeroa Scenic Reserve.

Policies

1. To protect the values of the Reserve from adverse effects of introduced animal and plant species.

Methods

1. Support research or work into quantifying the presence of pest animal and pest plant species in the reserve, their distribution and potential impacts.
2. Collaborate and work with other surrounding landowners, agencies and leaseholders to assist in achieving acceptable, effective, sustainable and efficient control of pest plant and pest animal species.

12.2 Fire Management

Fire is a threat to reserve values and has the potential to cause destruction of indigenous flora and fauna and can provide the necessary conditions and creation of suitable habitats which are vulnerable to colonisation and invasion by plant pests. Most of this risk in the reserve is associated with human activities.

Any fire originating from Ruatihi o Paeroa Scenic Reserve also has potential to spread and cause damage to the surrounding Te Kopia Scenic Reserve, telecommunications infrastructure adjacent to the reserve and has the potential to spread into nearby farmland and community infrastructure.

Policies

1. No fires are permitted within the Reserve.
2. Manage activities and use of the Reserve to protect the values of the reserve from fire.

Methods

1. Application of fire risk triggers for machinery and equipment used within the reserve for management purposes or as part of any authorisations granted for the reserve.
2. Work with the Fire authority to ensure best practice is applied in the reserve and liaise with the Department of Conservation on an annual basis to discuss fire policy and implementation.

Part 4: People’s benefit and enjoyment

Scenic Reserves are areas which have scenic values, beauty, natural features or landscapes that are to be protected and preserved in perpetuity for their intrinsic worth and for the benefit, enjoyment and use of the public.

Ruatihī o Paeroa Scenic Reserve may be utilised for various activities which enable visitors to enjoy the values and features of the reserve. These activities have the potential to impact on the values of the reserve and these impacts need to be considered and managed accordingly.

This management plan provides policies for the direct management of activities and effects within the reserve boundary and also indicates where the Runanga can advocate for the protection and preservation of the reserve in relation to adjacent land management (Te Kopia Scenic Reserve) and through other planning and management mechanisms.

13.0 Planning and managing for people’s enjoyment

13.1 Reserve access and use

Both parcels of land of the reserve have very limited public access. The southern block of the reserve can only be accessed by foot through Te Kopia Scenic Reserve. There are no structured or formed tracks leading from public roads through Te Kopia Scenic Reserve to the reserve.

The northern block of the reserve has an access road to service the telecommunications infrastructure on the summit. The road is not open for general public vehicle use but can be transversed by foot if access is gained through Te Kopia Scenic Reserve.

13.2 Hazards

The nature and location of the Reserve means that users may be subject to potential hazards which are beyond the control of the Runanga. These hazards primarily relate to the remoteness, ruggedness and the absence of formed tracks, directional markers and limited access into the Reserve.

There are risks to members of the public who do not have the adequate skills in negotiating the terrain within the reserve. Visitors are responsible for their own safety within the Reserve and are responsible for ensuring that they have the level of skill and competence and the equipment required to cope with these hazards and associated risks.

Policies

1. Review and keep current Health and Safety processes in regards to Runanga obligations as the reserve’s administering body to identify hazards and appropriate controls.

Methods

1. Provide information to potential visitors regarding hazards in the reserve and the need for them to be responsible for their own decisions, actions and associated risks (via website).
2. Ensure all authorisation holders are aware of their own responsibilities when operating or visiting the reserve and that they have processes in place to ensure the Health and Safety of their staff and/or clients. The Runanga will ensure it provides relevant information to authorisation holders to comply with the Health and Safety work Act 2015.
3. Ensure all Contractors and Leaseholders are aware of the hazards and risks relevant to their work while operating in the reserve. The Runanga will ensure it provides relevant information to authorisation holders to comply with the Health and Safety work Act 2015.
4. The Runanga may consider closing parts of the reserve, on a temporary basis if a hazard poses an imminent danger to the public and that it cannot be removed or reasonably avoided by other means.

13.3 Hunting and trapping of introduced species (Deer, Pigs and Possum)

Red deer and pigs are known to be present throughout the wider Paeroa Range and there is active hunting of both species in the general area. The Department of Conservation initiated a hunter's access track into Te Kopia in 2012 to facilitate hunter access to assist and encourage hunter access. This track does not cross Ruatihu o Paeroa Scenic Reserve.

Any hunting or trapping requires landowner permission and the issue of a permit for undertaking these activities within the reserve would be required from the Runanga.

Policies

1. Recreational hunting in Ruatihu o Paeroa Scenic Reserve will not be encouraged or facilitated.
2. Hunting of deer species and pigs for use at Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa hakari, tangihanga or other culturally significant events will be assessed on a case by case basis by the Runanga.
3. Permits for trapping of pest animals within Ruatihu o Paeroa Scenic Reserve will also be considered on a case by case basis by the Runanga.

13.4 Camping and overnight stays

The location and reserve access is not conducive to camping or providing designated camping facilities. People may occasionally camp within the reserve while tramping or undertaking other activities within the wider Te Kopia Scenic Reserve and Paeroa range.

Camping has the potential to damage cultural sites, add to litter and human waste and damage vegetation.

Policies

1. Overnight camping is not permitted within Ruatihu o Paeroa Scenic Reserve.

13.5 Educational and other large groups

From time to time, there may be requests for formal access to the reserve by various groups to utilise the area for educational or cultural purposes.

The Runanga may consider requests for group access to the reserve on a case by case basis. Access may be subject to authorisation requirements (Part 5 of this plan) depending on the nature of the group visit purpose. Any use of the private road for vehicle access to the northern block of Ruatihi O Paeroa Scenic Reserve is subject to agreement of the private landowner (over which the private road access begins) the road owner and leaseholder Korida Limited, and the Department of Conservation (where the road runs through Te Kopia Scenic Reserve). A formal access protocol has been agreed by the four parties.

Policies

1. Access to the reserve by groups will be at the discretion of the Runanga and considered on a case by case basis.
2. For vehicle access to the northern block of the Reserve, the agreed access protocol will be adhered to.

13.6 Human waste and litter

Given the low visitation to the site, it is considered that currently human waste and litter and associated impacts are minimal. If for any reason visitation to the reserve increases or authorisations are granted, then the impact and management of human waste and litter should be considered by the Runanga.

13.7 Information sharing

There is currently no signage or interpretation within the reserve itself. Limited access and lack of distinct visitor entry points are not supportive of providing these facilities within the reserve.

The Runanga should look for opportunity to share information with visitors however this will be by alternate means rather than physical signage or interpretation boards. This plan forms one mechanism of communication and consideration should be given to other opportunities as they arise.

Policies

1. To provide information to visitors to improve their experiences in the reserve and their understanding of the Reserve's values.

Methods

1. Identify opportunities to provide information to visitors to the reserve to enhance understanding, experience and appreciation of the reserve values.
2. Liaise with the Department of Conservation on potential opportunities for information enhancement through access points into Te Kopia Scenic Reserve.

13.8 Use of vehicles and aircraft

The use of any vehicles or aircraft in the reserve should be consistent with the overall purpose of the reserve and the objectives of this plan.

13.8.1 Land vehicles

There is limited access to the reserve by land vehicles (cars, utes, trucks, motorbikes and quad bikes). The southern parcel of land which forms part of the reserve is land- locked and surrounded by Te Kopia Scenic reserve with no formed access. The terrain is not conducive to access by off-road vehicles and their presence would be detrimental to the values of the Reserve.

The northern parcel of land which forms part of the Reserve is crossed by a road used to access the communications infrastructure on the summit of the Paeroa Range (adjacent to the Reserve). The section of road that crosses Ruatihu o Paeroa Scenic Reserve is authorised by a lease agreement.

The general approach of the Runanga is that neither parcel of land within the Reserve is suitable for access by public vehicles. The Runanga may consider requests for access to the northern block of the reserve by vehicles on a case by case basis. Access may be subject to authorisation requirements (Part 5 of this plan) depending on the nature of the access request. Any use of the private road for vehicle access is subject to agreement of the private landowner (over which the private road access begins) the road owner and leaseholder Korida Limited, and the Department of Conservation (where the road runs through Te Kopia Scenic Reserve). A formal access protocol has been agreed by the four parties.

13.8.2 Aircraft

Any private or commercial aircraft landing on, or taking off from the reserve would require an authorisation as outlined in Part 5 of this plan.

Helicopter landings and take offs in the adjoining Te Kopia Scenic Reserve are limited to essential management purposes or emergencies. Helicopters can take off or land on adjacent private land including the location of some private air strips in the immediate vicinity.

Applications for authorisations in regard to aircraft use may be considered on an individual basis while taking into account potential impacts on the objectives and values for the Reserve.

13.8.3 Drone Use and other unmanned aerial devices

The use of drones or other unmanned aerial devices in the reserve would require permission of the Runanga which is required through the Civil Aviation rules governing drone use in New Zealand.

The use of this equipment can be beneficial to assist in management requirements but can also detract from enjoyment and experience in natural areas. Noise, privacy, health and safety, impact on cultural values and potential fire risk require consideration before allowing drone use over Ruatihu o Paeroa Scenic Reserve.

The use of commercial or recreational drone or other unmanned aerial device uses within the Reserve should not be facilitated given the potential impacts on Reserve values and risks. These policies are reflected in the requirements outlined for allocation of authorisations within the Runanga's authorisation processes.

Policies

1. Manage the use of vehicles, helicopters, drones and unmanned devices in a manner that avoids adverse effects on reserve values.

Methods

1. For vehicle access to the northern block of the Reserve, the agreed access protocol will be adhered to.
2. The Runanga will not permit helicopter use within the Reserve except for management and emergency purposes.

3. The Runanga will limit drone use or other unmanned aerial device use in the reserve to management purposes only.

13.8.4 Animals

Under section 94(1) of the Reserves Act 1977 it is an offence to allow any animal (including pets) to be on the reserve unless authorised.

Many domestic and farm animals can adversely affect sensitive sites through trampling, spread of weeds through dung, destruction or damage to indigenous vegetation and potential to disturb indigenous fauna. Domestic and farm animals for the purpose of this management plan include any animal kept as a pet or for farming purposes.

From time to time, it may be necessary to undertake management or respond to emergency situations where the use of working dogs is required.

The wider Te Kopia Scenic Reserve is surrounded by farmland which is a mix of dairy, sheep, beef, deer farm and lifestyle activity. Part of the adjacent Te Kopia Scenic Reserve has a grazing concession which is close to the northern parcel of land of Ruatihi o Paeroa Scenic Reserve. There is a risk of animal trespass and impact to the Ruatihi o Paeroa Reserve if animals are not adequately contained and managed.

Any use of animals for management purposes within the Reserve must be authorised by the Runanga prior to the animal being allowed within the reserve.

Policies

1. Restrict access to the reserve from domestic or farm animals to protect reserve values.

Methods

1. The Runanga will not grant any authorisations to take domestic or farm animals into the reserve unless for Reserve management or emergency purposes.
2. The Runanga shall work with the Department of Conservation to ensure trespass from stock from adjacent concession areas does not impact on the values of Ruatihi o Paeroa Scenic Reserve.

13.9 Infrastructure within the Reserve

Limited access, relative isolation and lack of connectivity of the two parcels of reserve land are generally not conducive to development of infrastructure within the reserve. Cultural, landscape and biodiversity values are also likely to be impacted by any infrastructure development.

Approximately three quarters of the reserve is also located within an Outstanding Natural Feature and Landscape parcel identified within the Rotorua District Plan (Paeroa Range Western Scarps). District Plan rules pertaining to infrastructure within the reserve are varied and generally cover the following activities:

- Maintenance, replacement and upgrade of existing structures.
- Maintenance of existing farm, forestry skid sites and walking tracks.
- Earthworks.
- Construction of new farm, forestry or walking tracks.
- New buildings and structures .

- Mining and quarrying.
- Plantation forestry.
- Removal of indigenous vegetation.

The effects on the reserve values and the contribution of the reserve to the wider landscape would need to be considered in regards to any proposal for new infrastructure.

Consideration of District plan and Regional Plan rules (and subsequent changes) would also need full consideration by the Runanga as part of any development proposal.

The location of the reserve within the wider Paeroa Range must also consider the contiguous nature of the landscape values of the range itself. To protect the landscape values within the Ruatihu o Paeroa Scenic Reserve, it may also be necessary to work with surrounding landowners (Department of Conservation, leaseholders and private landowners) to ensure the wider Paeroa Range landscape is considered in any infrastructure development outside the reserve itself.

There is existing infrastructure in the reserve which includes the access road to the telecommunications area at the top of the reserve (in northern parcel) and the use of the reserve for some supporting cables and cable anchor points for the existing towers/aerials.

Policies

1. Ensure that any existing infrastructure in the reserve is maintained to avoid adverse effects on the values of the reserve.
2. Protect the values of the reserve from the development of any further infrastructure.

Methods

1. Consider any application for infrastructure development within the reserve in the context of impacts on reserve values.
2. Work with other landowners across the Paeroa Range and advocate for wider protection and consideration of the impact of infrastructure on the wider landscape values of the Range.
3. Work with the leaseholder to ensure maintenance of existing infrastructure is considered within the scope of this plan and is managed in a way to be consistent with reserve values and legislative requirements.

13.10 Community relations

The Runanga manages the Ruatihu o Paeroa Scenic Reserve and the values within the reserve for benefit to iwi, local community and the wider public good. The successful management of the reserve is dependent on support of those associated with the reserve. This includes the Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa people, adjacent landowners, visitors, public agencies and interest groups. Effective relationships between the Runanga and these various people can help and enhance the ability to achieve the objectives for the reserve.

13.10.1 Neighbouring lands/Integrated management

The location of Ruatihu o Paeroa Scenic Reserve is such that it is almost entirely surrounded by Te Kopia Scenic Reserve except for a small area owned by Kordia Limited which bounds the reserve where the telecommunications infrastructure is present (in the northern block of the reserve). This relative isolation means that in many circumstances, it may be necessary to work closely with others to achieve the overall purpose of the reserve as well as the vision and objectives within this plan.

As well as integrated management across lands, the Runanga is interested in activities outside the boundaries of the Ruatihu o Paeroa Scenic Reserve which may have the ability to impact or cause adverse effects on the reserve itself.

Policies

1. The establishment and ongoing maintenance of positive relationships with adjacent landowners, leaseholders, community and public agencies will facilitate the protection and preservation of the values of the reserve.
2. Recognise the importance of partnerships with others to generate opportunities and management to benefit to the reserve and its values.
3. To consider activities on neighbouring lands and their potential effects on the reserve and the wider values of the Paeroa range.

Methods

1. Facilitate partnerships with others to generate opportunities and management to benefit to the reserve and its values.
2. Maintain liaison and good working relationships with neighbouring landowners regarding issues of common concern
3. Advocate for reserve values and policies through liaison with public agencies and in particular look for opportunities for integrated management across lands with the Department of Conservation.
4. Advocate in planning and management processes regarding adjacent lands to ensure the values within the reserve are protected and values are considered along the wider Paeroa Range.

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Part 5: Activities requiring specific authorisation

An authorisation is a lease, licence, authorisation or easement granted under Section 59A of the Reserves Act 1977 which enables the holder to carry out an activity within the reserve.

The Runanga only manages activities requiring authorisation within the boundaries of the reserve. For the purposes of this management plan, these authorisations have been divided into two categories:

- Commercial authorisations
- Research , collection and sampling authorisations (including customary use and harvest)

14.0 Authorisation applications and management

The Runanga is responsible for receiving, processing and deciding on authorisation applications in accordance with the provisions within this management plan. The Runanga has established a process for receiving and processing applications and associated fees. The Runanga Board may choose to delegate the processing of authorisation applications to Runanga staff but will maintain oversight and remain in the decision making process.

The process that has been established for authorisation applications and management is provided to applicants through the Runanga's website and will be updated as required.

Authorisation activities have the potential to cause adverse effects on cultural, natural and historical values as well as impact on visitor experiences. Alternatively, authorisation activities may also benefit both reserve values and visitor experiences and assist in achieving the objectives and policies of this plan.

The Runanga will take a precautionary approach to granting of authorisations within the Ruatihi o Paeroa Scenic Reserve, particularly when there is little information available regarding the potential effects of an activity. If there is a conflict in regards to consideration of an authorisation, the primary reserve purpose outlined in the Reserves Act 1977 will prevail.

14.1 Cultural values

All authorisation applications will be assessed for their potential impact on the cultural values of Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa iwi. The Runanga will place high emphasis on protecting these values and will decline an authorisation application should there be evidence the activity will cause damage or detriment to these values.

14.2 Commercial authorisations

Commercial authorisations include all activities which benefit a business or individual by their undertaking. This may include guiding, commercial filming or photography or aircraft landing or any other activity which uses the reserve to generate income for an individual or business.

14.3 Research, collection and sampling authorisations (including customary harvest)

An increased understanding of the various aspects within the reserve is beneficial to assisting to achieve the objectives and policies of this plan. Research, collection and sampling can assist in providing useful information to the Runanga regarding the management of indigenous flora and fauna, general ecosystem knowledge, pest animal and plant impacts, cultural information, historic information and geological knowledge.

Maori have traditionally gathered plants and animals from the land for customary use which may include (but is not limited to) harvest of plant materials for weaving, rongoa (medicine) as well as the harvest of indigenous birds and animals for feathers and food.

The remaining areas of indigenous vegetation and habitat in which to practice customary use and harvest are now limited in the general geographic area. The largest remaining tract of indigenous vegetation includes Ruatihu o Paeroa Scenic Reserve and the associated Te Kopia Scenic Reserve.

The Runanga will assess each application for research, collection, sampling and customary use against its primary mandate of protecting and preserving the intrinsic values of the reserve and the benefit to the reserve of granting any research or collection and sampling authorisation.

In many cases, additional permission from the Minister of Conservation will be required for authorisations involving the following:

- The taking or cutting of plant material (Section 42 of the Reserves Act 1977)
- The taking of specimens (flora or fauna or rock mineral or soil) for scientific or educational purposes (Section 49 of the Reserves Act 1977)
- The taking or killing of fauna (Section 50 of the Reserves Act 1977)
- Introduction of flora and fauna (Section 51 of the Reserves Act 1977)

As the administrators of Ruatihu o Paeroa Scenic Reserve, the Runanga will assess applications on matters pertaining to ownership of intellectual property. The Runanga will work towards ensuring this is protected and manage this process accordingly.

14.4 Monitoring of authorisations

The effects of authorised activities undertaken in the reserve should be monitored for their impact on natural resources, historic and cultural heritage and impacts on visitor experience within the reserve. Authorisations may include conditions which will require the holder to monitor various aspects and impacts of their authorised activity. The results of this monitoring will help to inform the Runanga when making future management decisions regarding new applications.

Policies

1. To authorise activities and use of the reserve to ensure activities are consistent with the primary objectives of this plan and the primary purpose of the reserve.
2. Ensure the granting of any authorisation aligns with the Reserves Act 1977, the Wildlife Act 1953 or any other legislation pertaining to particular activities.
3. Ensure any authorisation granted is not potentially detrimental or inconsistent to the wider Te Kopia Scenic Reserve or Paeroa Range values.

Methods

1. An authorisation will not be allowed where it:
 - Is inconsistent with the Reserves Act 1977
 - Is inconsistent with the objectives, policies or methods in this plan
 - Threatens the protection and preservation of the reserves intrinsic values
 - Has the potential to impact on the cultural values of Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa
 - Threatens to cause unacceptable adverse effects including cumulative effects on reserves values
 - Threatens to adversely affect the benefit, use and enjoyment of the public, including public access and visitor experience
 - Does not meet other legislative requirements such as the Wildlife Act 1953
2. Authorisations for the cutting or taking of plant material, or the taking or killing of fauna for private use (other than for customary use) should not be granted as these activities are inconsistent with the status and values of the reserve.
3. Authorisations should only be granted for scientific research where there is clear evidence that knowledge will be increased to support the management and protection of reserve values.
4. Work with the Department of Conservation to ensure authorisations for Ruatihi o Paeroa Scenic Reserve conform to required legislation.
5. Work with the Department of Conservation to ensure authorisations for Te Kopia Scenic Reserve have no negative impact on the values of Ruatihi o Paeroa and the wider Paeroa Range.
6. Conditions should be included in any approved concession to ensure that any actual or potential adverse environmental, cultural and/or social effects are avoided, remedied or mitigated.
7. Authorisations for activities in the Reserves will be considered by the Runanga using a precautionary approach.
8. Monitor the effects of authorised activities on the values of the reserve by ensuring authorisation conditions require adequate monitoring provisions on the effects of the activity being conducted.

Part 6: Plan implementation, monitoring and review

15.0 Plan implementation, monitoring, reporting and review

Part 6 outlines the process the Runanga will follow in ensuring this plan is utilised to achieve the ongoing effective management of the reserve.

15.1 Implementation

The main purpose of this management plan is to provide guidance to the Runanga as the administering body of the reserve as to the management priorities and requirements in the Ruatihi o Paeroa Scenic Reserve.

The methods set out what actions should be undertaken by the Runanga to give effect to the policies and objectives to achieve the overall vision for the reserve.

The Runanga will use this management plan as a guiding tool to assist in providing consistent and effective management of the reserve to achieve the reserve's purpose.

15.2 Monitoring and reporting

This management plan establishes objectives for the reserve that the Runanga wish to achieve. The achievement of these objectives depends on the resources available to the Runanga and the ability to work with others to achieve these objectives.

Reporting on the effectiveness of this management plan will assist in gauging whether the policies and methods are being implemented and the objectives of this plan are being achieved. Reporting will also assist in identification of any gaps in this plan and highlight areas which may need future review. Increased knowledge of the resources and values of the reserve may also trigger identification of areas of this plan which may need to be amended in light of new information.

15.3 Review

It is necessary to check and review policies to ensure that they remain relevant and effective and reflect any changes in management approaches or national, regional or district policy.

Section 41 (4) of the Reserves Act 1977 requires the administering body of any reserve to keep its management plan under constant review. The Runanga will continue to monitor any legislative changes and use its reporting process to indicate when any partial or full review of this plan may be warranted.

Policies

1. To administer the reserve in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977, this management plan and any other relevant legislation.
2. Monitor the values in the reserve to assess the applicability and relevance of the management plan on an ongoing basis.

Methods

1. Manage the reserve in accordance with relevant legislation and this management plan
2. Develop annually, a summary report on the effectiveness of the reserve management in achieving the objectives of the plan to be approved by the Runanga Board, which will include the following:
 - a. Work undertaken in that year to assist in achieving each objective
 - b. Assessment of implementation of policies and methods and application to work and management activities within the reserve
 - c. A summary of new knowledge gained for the reserve which may assist in management
 - d. A summary of any authorisations or other lessee activity
3. Review or amend this management plan where changes in circumstance or legislation, or new knowledge cause the provisions in the plan to become contrary to legislation, outdated, irrelevant or inconsistent.
4. Respond to any requests from the Minister of Conservation to review this plan.

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Appendix 1: Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977

Management plans

(1) The administering body shall, within 5 years after the date of its appointment or within 5 years after the commencement of this Act, whichever is the later, prepare and submit to the Minister for his or her approval a management plan for the reserve under its control, management, or administration.

(2) The Minister may extend the time within which an administering body is required to submit its management plan to him or her for approval, where he or she is satisfied with the progress the administering body has made with the preparation of its management plan.

(3) The management plan shall provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection, and preservation, as the case may require, and, to the extent that the administering body's resources permit, the development, as appropriate, of the reserve for the purposes for which it is classified, and shall incorporate and ensure compliance with the principles set out in section 17, section 18, section 19, section 20, section 21, section 22, or section 23, as the case may be, for a reserve of that classification.

(4) The administering body of any reserve shall keep its management plan under continuous review, so that, subject to subsection (3), the plan is adapted to changing circumstances or in accordance with increased knowledge; and the Minister may from time to time require the administering body to review its management plan, whether or not the plan requires the approval of the Minister under this section.

(5) Before preparing a management plan for any 1 or more reserves under its control, the administering body shall—

(a) give public notice of its intention to do so; and

(b) in that notice, invite persons and organisations interested to send to the administering body at its office written suggestions on the proposed plan within a time specified in the notice; and

(c) in preparing that management plan, give full consideration to any such comments received.

(5A) Nothing in subsection (5) shall apply in any case where the administering body has, by resolution, determined that written suggestions on the proposed plan would not materially assist in its preparation.

(6) Every management plan shall be prepared by the administering body in draft form in the first place, and the administering body shall—

(a) give public notice complying with section 119 stating that the draft plan is available for inspection at a place and at times specified in the notice, and calling upon persons or organisations interested to lodge with the administering body written objections to or suggestions on the draft plan before a specified date, being not less than 2 months after the date of publication of the notice; and

(aa) on giving notice in accordance with paragraph (a), send a copy of the draft plan to the Commissioner; and

(b) give notice in writing, as far as practicable, to all persons and organisations who or which made suggestions to the administering body under subsection (5) stating that the draft plan has been prepared and is available for inspection at the place and during the times specified in the notice, and requiring any such person or organisation who or which desires to object to or comment on the draft plan to lodge with the administering body a written objection or written comments before a specified date, being not less than 2 months after the date of giving of the notice; and

(c) make the draft management plan available for inspection, free of charge, to all interested persons during ordinary office hours at the office of the administering body; and

(d) before approving the management plan, or, as the case may require, recommending the management plan to the Minister for his or her approval, give every person or organisation who or which, in lodging any objection or making any comments under paragraph (a) or paragraph (b), asked to be heard in support of his or her or its objection or comments, a reasonable opportunity of appearing before the administering body or a committee thereof or a person nominated by the administering body in support of his or her or its objection or comments; and

(e) where the management plan requires the approval of the Minister, attach to the plan submitted to him or her for approval a summary of the objections and comments received and a statement as to the extent to which they have been allowed or accepted or disallowed or not accepted.

(7) Where under subsection (4) the Minister requires an administering body to review its management plan, he or she may direct that the administering body follow the procedure specified in subsections (5) and (6), and the administering body shall follow that procedure accordingly as if the review were the preparation of a management plan.

(8) Where in terms of its responsibilities under this Act the administering body of any reserve resolves to undertake a comprehensive review of its management plan, the administering body shall follow the procedure specified in subsections (5) and (6) as if the review were the preparation of a management plan.

(9) Where under subsection (4) the administering body considers any change not involving a comprehensive review to its management plan is required, it may, if it thinks fit, follow the procedure specified in subsections (5) and (6).

(10) The administering body or committee or person before which or whom any person appears at any hearing in support of any objection or comments shall determine its or his or her own procedure at the hearing.

(11) The administering body shall in the exercise of its functions comply with the management plan for the reserve and any amendment thereof, being, in the case of a plan or an amendment that requires the approval of the Minister, a plan or an amendment so approved.

(12) No approval by the Minister for the purposes of this section shall operate as an approval or a consent for any other purpose of this Act.

(13) Where a recreation reserve is vested in a local authority or a local authority is appointed to control and manage a recreation reserve, the local authority shall not be required to submit its management plan to the Minister for approval, unless the terms of vesting or of appointment to control and manage the reserve so require:

provided that the local authority shall make its management plan available for inspection by or on behalf of the Minister whenever so required.

(14) The Minister may, by notice to them, require the administering bodies of reserves in any locality to consult with each other in the preparation of their management plans so that the management plans are integrated for the benefit of the locality.

(15) Where under this Act the approval or consent of the Minister is required to any action by an administering body, the Minister may, at his or her discretion, refuse to grant his or her approval or consent unless and until the administering body has submitted its management plan for approval (whether or not the plan otherwise requires the approval of the Minister under this section) and the plan has been approved by him or her.

(16) This section shall not apply in respect of any government purpose reserve or local purpose reserve unless the reserve is vested in an administering body or an administering body is appointed to control and manage the reserve, and the Minister in the notice of vesting or notice to control and manage directs that this section is to apply in respect of the reserve.

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Appendix 2: Section 19 (2) of the Reserves Act 1977

Section 19(2) Reserves Act 1977 declares that every scenic reserve classified for the purposes of s.19(1)(a) are to be so administered and maintained under the provisions of the Act that -

- “(a) Except where the Minister otherwise determines, the indigenous flora and fauna, ecological associations, and natural environment and beauty shall as far as possible be preserved, and for this purpose, except where the Minister otherwise determines, exotic flora and fauna shall as far as possible be exterminated;
- (b) The public shall have freedom of entry and access to the reserve, subject to the specific powers conferred on administering bodies by section 55 and 56, to any bylaws under this Act applying to the reserve and to such conditions and restrictions as the administering body considers to be necessary for the protection and well-being of the reserve and for the protection and control of the public using it;
- (c) To the extent compatible with the principal or primary purposes of the retention and preservation of the natural or scenic values, open portions of the reserve may be developed for amenities and facilities where these are necessary to enable the public to obtain benefit and enjoyment from the reserve;
- (d) Where historic, archaeological, geological, biological, or other scientific features are present in the reserve, those features shall be managed and protected to the extent compatible with the principal or primary purpose of the reserve;

Provided that nothing in this paragraph shall authorise the doing of anything with respect to fauna that would contravene any provision of the Wildlife Act 1953 or any regulations or Proclamation or notification under that Act, or the doing of anything with respect to archaeological features in any reserve that would contravene any provision of the Historic Places Act 1993:

- (e) To the extent compatible with the principal or primary purpose of the reserve, its value as a soil, water, and forest conservation area shall be maintained.”

Appendix 3: Relevant Waikato Regional Policy Statement Objectives

RPS Objectives:

3.4 *Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River*

The health and wellbeing of the Waikato River is restored and protected and Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato (the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River) is achieved.

3.8 *Ecosystem Services*

The range of ecosystem services associated with natural resources are recognised and maintained or enhanced to enable their ongoing contribution to regional wellbeing.

3.18 *Historic and Cultural Heritage*

Sites, structures, landscapes, areas or places of historic and cultural heritage are protected, maintained or enhanced in order to retain the identity and integrity of the Waikato region's and New Zealand's history and culture

3.19 *Ecological integrity and indigenous biodiversity*

The full range of ecosystem types, their extent and the indigenous biodiversity that those ecosystems can support exist in a healthy and functional state.

3.20 *Outstanding natural features and landscapes*

The values of outstanding natural features and landscapes are identified and protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

3.21 *Amenity*

The qualities and characteristics of areas and features, valued for their contribution to amenity, are maintained or enhanced.