

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 WHAT IS THE SOUTH COAST?

Protection and enhancement of the coastal edge of Wellington is a major objective of Wellington City Council. The clean up of the Moa Point sewage outfall and purchase of the Owhiro Bay Quarry are just two examples of projects that have enhanced the South Coast - a popular and treasured part of the city's natural environment. It is also a well-used recreational asset and provides a key contribution to the character of a number of urban areas.

The area's conservation values and potential to provide a high quality recreational experience for Wellingtonians and visitors are not being fully realised. This Management Plan is a step towards changing this.

The South Coast is an area with a variety of resources, uses and land tenure. Individuals, groups and organisations value the area for different reasons. Despite these differences, there is wide consensus that the area is of great significance and is in need of effective management - and in some cases protection and restoration. There is no doubt that the desire to conserve and enjoy the character of the coast is a driving force behind the concern and interest many people have shown.

This Management Plan covers the land under Wellington City Council's jurisdiction (above the line of mean low water springs) from Point Dorset in the east, to Karori Stream in the west. This includes the following:

- € all reserve and non-reserve land to the seaward side of the coastal road (excluding private land)
- € specific reserve and non-reserve land to the landward side of the coastal road that is significant in the context of coastal character (excluding private land)
- € the coastal road and road reserve (excluding the carriageway)¹
- € Shorland Park, Dorrie Leslie Park, Wahine Memorial Park, Atatürk Historic Reserve, View Road South Headland Reserve and Beacon Hill Reserve
- € Tapu te Ranga (Island)
- € Owhiro Bay Quarry.

The extent of the Management Plan has been limited to the above boundaries to produce a manageable focus. If the Plan proves to be effective, the framework and relevant content may be applied to other coastal areas.

¹ The management and maintenance of the carriageway is not part of the Management Plan except that some enhancement projects (such as footpath extensions or altered intersections) have been suggested as possibilities for the future.

1.2 WHAT DOES THE MANAGEMENT PLAN DO?

The role of a management plan is to direct or manage the use of land classified as reserve under the Reserves Act 1977. The objective of a management plan is to establish guidance for day-to-day management and decision-making, and to establish the desired mix of values and uses for reserve land.

This document extends this role to address land that is not classified as reserve, as well as looking at opportunities for future development and enhancement. It provides a wider planning context for Wellington City Council's actions in the whole South Coast environment. This includes the management of non-reserve land and road reserve.

The minimum period for review of this Management Plan is five years from the date it is adopted.

1.3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS

As stated above, this Management Plan is designed to provide a framework to make decisions about:

- € the use of coastal land
- € allocating available resources
- € future potential development and enhancement
- € priority areas or issues to address.

This Management Plan is a summary of a number of areas of information and does not attempt to be all encompassing in this regard. In implementing this Management Plan the Council and community will draw from a number of other sources of information, including:

- € Wellington City District Plan 2000
- € Wellington City Council Heritage and Sites of Significance to Maori inventories
- € "Healing the South Coast" (April 1994)
- € Landuse Management Guidelines: To Heal the Wellington South Coast (September 1995)
- € Wellington Coast From Owhiro Bay to Oriental Bay: Enhancement and Restoration Guidelines (February 1997)
- € Ecological Survey of the Wellington South Coast 1996
- € Department of Conservation ecological site inventories
- € Conservation Management Strategy for Wellington 1996 – 2005.

There are also a significant number of published and unpublished fauna and flora surveys of the coastal area that will be drawn upon for management purposes (such as the Department of Conservation's *Plants of National Conservation Concern in Wellington Conservancy: Current Status and Future Management*).

1.4 RELATIONSHIP WITH TANGATA WHENUA

The Council has a special relationship with tangata whenua as outlined in the memoranda of understanding between the Council and Te Runanga o Toa Rangatira Inc. (Ngati Toa), and between the Council and the Wellington Tenth Trust (Te Atiawa).

Under the memoranda of understanding, each party recognises the authority of the other to exercise their responsibilities - kawanatanga (governance) by Wellington City Council, and rangatiratanga (customary authority) and kaitiakitanga (guardianship) by tangata whenua.

Actions taken under this Management Plan will reflect these principles and are intended to provide opportunities for discussion and to develop partnerships.