

1. Introduction

Welcome to the first rural community plan for Makara

This plan is about capturing and putting down in writing community aspirations for Makara. The exercise originated with a review of the objectives, policies and rules guiding the management of Wellington's rural environment through the District Plan. However, it developed into a much more holistic look at all of the ways in which the community and Wellington City council interacts around issues within and affecting Makara. The plan is therefore the beginning of an ongoing process to ensure this community is well represented and understood in decision-making processes. It is not a statutory document but has a key role in assisting the Community and the Community Board to lobby for changes to service delivery, the funding of projects through the annual plan, or request changes be made to other Council documents such as the District Plan.

The Makara Rural Community Plan covers the rural land west of the Karori Stream and Te Wharangi Ridge up to Takarau Gorge where it adjoins the area covered by the Ohariu Valley Rural Community Plan. It includes the settlements of Makara Village and Makara Beach, as well as the largest landholding in Wellington, Terawhiti Station (see Map in Section 2).

The ideas and proposals in this document were produced through extensive consultation over the middle of 2001, and prior to that through two written surveys in 2000. While the process has not been without its challenging moments, the Makara/Ohariu Community Board recognises the investment that members of the Makara community have made to ensure this is their plan. The high level of participation demonstrated a passion amongst residents for Makara. The Board would like to thank everyone, including the principal and students at Makara Model School, for their input. It encourages people to remain involved in issues affecting the area.

Of course not every individual will agree with every statement of recommended action, and there will be those who would argue just as passionately for methods that have been omitted. Consensus has not been possible on all issues. That is to be expected, in a community with diverse and often strongly held views. The Community Plan does not seek to present one strongly unified view on all issues, but rather reflects the diversity of opinions presented throughout the process. Still, it is quite clear where there are commonly held views and in the case of Makara this lies principally in a strong community seeking to retain Makara's unique character.

The definition of 'community' was also a matter that was raised in the development of this plan. Most residents within Makara do not regard Meridian Energy, a large landowner in the area, as part of their community. This is problematic for the Council as, in regard to resource management processes, Meridian Energy would have standing as a landowner within this community. Therefore, it should be clearly recognised that the content of this plan does not represent the view of Meridian Energy.

How did this plan come about?

| Community input | Community Board and Council response |
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| Provided views on visions for the rural area and the future of subdivision (Questionnaire in early 2000) | Formulated 'Rural Area Objectives' to capture the community's visions and establish the Community Plan process (South Karori, Makara, Ohariu Valley and Horokiwi) |
| Commented on 'Rural Area Objectives' and the Community Plan process (Discussion paper and questionnaire in October 2000) | Adopted revised set of 'Rural Area Objectives' and Community Plan process and timetable (January 2001) |
| Attended "Makara community planning day" providing local responses to the 'Rural Area Objectives' (9 June 2001) | Summarised local community response to 'Rural Area Objectives' and explored ideas for local projects and subdivision and land use management |
| Local Resident Workshops were held: Rural Makara (25 June 2001) Makara Beach (25 June 2001) Makara Village (27 June 2001) | Formulated draft Makara Rural Community Plan and released it for discussion (August 2001) |
| Commented on draft Makara Rural Community Plan (August/September 2001) | Considered the submissions and a revised Makara Plan – Makara/Ohariu Community Board decided plan did not accurately reflect community feeling and recommended the Council not adopt it (20 September 2001). Council Committee decided to let plan lie rather than adopt plan in its current form (26 September 2001). |
| | After further thought and examination of the submissions the Board asked for the plan to be revised in accordance with the community response and brought back to them as a draft for further consideration (October 2001) |
| | Local Body Elections 13 October 2001 – New Community Board and Council Elected |
| | A revised Community Plan prepared |
| | November/December 2001 - New Makara/Ohariu Community Board considered the revised community plan, made amendments and resolved to recommend to the Council that it adopt the community plan |
| | The Council formally adopted the community plan on 20 February 2002 |
| Community members can continue to discuss local issues, service delivery and lobby for special projects with members of the Makara/Ohariu Community Board and Councillors | Implementation of the community plan through the annual plan process, asset management plans and the district plan |
| | The Makara community is updated on progress in implementing its plan |