

RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

KAI IWI LAKES (TAHAROA DOMAIN) 2016





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RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

KAI IWI LAKES (TAHAROA DOMAIN)

INTRODUCTION

This Kai Iwi Lakes (Taharoa Domain) Reserve Management Plan 2016 has been developed to provide strategic guidance to the custodianship and enhancement of Taharoa Domain (an area commonly known as Kai Iwi Lakes). The reserve covers an area of some 538 hectares and contains three dune waterbodies: Lake Taharoa, Lake Kai Iwi and Lake Waikare.

Dune lakes

Kaipara District has a number of dune lakes associated with the length of its western coastline. These form part of a wider sequence that runs from Aupouri to Pouto Peninsula. The Kai Iwi Lakes are part of this lake system and are arguably amongst the best known dune lakes in New Zealand.

Lakes Taharoa, Waikare and Kai Iwi are all ranked as outstanding¹. Lake Taharoa, the largest of the three lakes and deepest (37m) in Northland receives the most activity due to its size, with a number of recreational activities occurring. Lake Taharoa has been recognised as *'probably the best example of a clear-water lake in Northland with the deepest recorded (24m) submerged vegetation in Northland'*².

Like most dune lakes, the Kai Iwi Lakes waterbodies have little or no continuous surface inflows or outlets, being primarily fed directly by rainfall or by groundwater from the surrounding catchment. As a result, water levels fluctuate to reflect climatic patterns.

Lake Taharoa is the focus of camping and much of Kai Iwi Lakes' recreational pursuits; whilst Lake Kai Iwi, as the smallest of the three lakes, provides for very little active recreational use. Each lake has its own individual characteristics, however they have a collective identity that shapes an outstanding natural environment.



Collectively the lakes support a spectrum of endangered endemic species, providing one of only a few remaining known habitats or strongholds for a range of biota. Perhaps the most outstanding feature of the lakes is a

¹ Northern Lakes Ecological Status 2013. NIWA

² Ibid.



currently limited impact of invasive species on the lakes' biota. They are highly complex and sensitive ecosystems that need collective assessment and monitoring programmes to take into consideration human activity and the interactions between the lakes physical environment and the biological communities that live within them. These matters are central to a continued healthy and outstanding natural feature and for the benefit and enjoyment of those who interact with it.

Kai Iwi Lakes

Kai Iwi Lakes is vested in Kaipara District Council by the Crown. It lies some 30km to the northwest of Dargaville, 2km inland of the west coast Tasman Sea and 30km south of Waipoua.



An aerial view of Kai Iwi Lakes and surrounding terrain. Source: Google Earth.

Kai Iwi Lakes is an iconic place, boasting a fascinating cultural history, outstanding landscape values, a fast-recovering ecology and water quality that is amongst the highest of any dune lakes in New Zealand. Collectively these characteristics give Kai Iwi Lakes a distinctive identity that is unmatched elsewhere in the country.

The lakes provide a much-loved destination for day visitors and campers, with many families having a relationship with Kai Iwi Lakes that goes back to the early times of its formation as a reserve. It is not uncommon for camping groups to consist of three generations staying together.



HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

For as long as has been recorded, people have lived in and around what is known today as Kai Iwi Lakes (Taharoa Domain). It is thought that the first Maori ancestor associated with the lakes is Tuputupu Whenua (alias Tumutumu Whenua) who dwelt at Rangirerekura Pa in the nearby Waihopai Valley. The Waihopai Valley at this time provided an ideal settlement for early Maori, as it was rich in resources. Tuputupu Whenua's 16th century Te Roroa descendent, Ngaengae, is believed to have lived in the same pa and is known to have fished in the lakes, as did his son Rangiwatuma and his grandson Ikataora.

By the 1870's, the Kai Iwi area had become a major gumdigging area, with the largest gumdigging camp located at Johnsons' Swamp, south of Lake Kai Iwi³. Gumdigging expanded to include to the eastern shores of Lake Taharoa and supported a general store that was established at Pine Beach in 1892. In the 1920's there were approximately 100 people said to have lived on the shores of the lakes and most were gumdiggers. Around this time there were various attempts to extend gum retrieval in the area and flax was harvested as a local industry.

An extensive tract of land known as the Maunganui Block was sold to the Crown in 1876 by the Chiefs Tiopira Kinaki and Parore Te Awha. Subsequently, a small 250 acre portion of that area which was centred on Lake Kai Iwi was cut out the wider area that had been purchased and granted back to Parore Te Awha to provide for perpetual access to food resources, protect important sites and provide a sheltered place to live. This parcel became known as the Taharoa Native Reserve and was to become the subject of a Treaty of Waitangi claim after it was sold to the Crown in 1950 without the involvement of Parore's descendants.



An 8.5ha block of land on the eastern shore of Lake Taharoa was set aside as a scenic reserve in 1928. The Crown then purchased Taharoa Native Reserve from the legal Maori owners in 1950, but in so doing was later judged to have breached the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi by the Waitangi Tribunal. Surrounding land was added to the scenic reserve in 1952, followed a decade later by Lake Kai Iwi being added to the reserve. In that same year, land around Lake Taharoa and Lake Kai Iwi was gazetted as the Taharoa Domain Recreation Reserve.

1964 saw the first plantation forestry in Kai Iwi Lakes, with the planting of 10,000 pine seedlings. Forestry operations continued until the mid-2000's. It was also in 1964 that recreational use of Kai Iwi Lakes started to

³ *Taharoa Domain Reserve Management Plan (1987)* Dunn, M.J. Hobson County Council



be promoted. Lake Waikare became popular for water-skiing during this period and a water ski club was established in the late 1960's.

Lake Waikare was added to Taharoa Domain Recreation Reserve in 1968 and in that same year administration and control of the reserve was entrusted to Hobson County Council (now Kaipara District Council) through the Taharoa Domain Board which was formed under the Reserves and Domains Act (1953). 1968 also saw a survey of Lakes Kai Iwi and Taharoa by the Departments of Marine and Internal Affairs, which found conditions in the lakes favourable for the 10,000 rainbow trout fingerlings that were then released into Lake Taharoa later that year. Trout were introduced to Lake Waikare the following year and trout fishing at Kai Iwi Lakes commenced.



Lake Taharoa in 1966, Whites Aviation Ltd : Photographs. Ref: WA-66060-F.
Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. <http://natlib.govt.nz/records/22587705>

The 1970's was a busy time for development in Kai Iwi Lakes, with the roading and amenity blocks seen today being established. Amenity improvements continued into the early 1980's to cater for increasing numbers of day-trippers and campers who were being drawn to the lakes.

During 1986 the first of a number of Treaty of Waitangi claims was lodged on behalf of Te Roroa and this included Taharoa Native Reserve within its scope. The Waitangi Tribunal addressed the claim in a report released in



1992, which judged that there were breaches of the Treaty in the way that the purchase of that Native Reserve was conducted and recommending a number of avenues of redress.

Kai Iwi Lakes received its first Reserve Management Plan in 1987, when the then Hobson County prepared a document in response to the requirements of the Reserves Act (1977). The gravel road that connected Kai Iwi Lakes Road with Pine Beach was sealed during the 1990's, leading to a further increase in visitor numbers.

A review of the 1987 Reserve Management Plan began in 1999, concluding with the second Taharoa Domain Reserve Management Plan being adopted in 2002. Three years later a new wastewater plant was installed at Pine Beach. A further two years elapsed before all of the pines established from 1964 onwards were harvested and major habitat restoration works began. Those ecological initiatives have continued to the present, with an increasing focus upon managing plant and animal pests, along with a number of research initiatives. Improvements to 1970's-era amenities around the Pine Beach area and the beginnings of a comprehensive upgrading of Kai Iwi Lakes' tracks (as signalled by the 2002 Reserve Management Plan) have been progressing during 2015. A review of the 2002 Reserve Management Plan was initiated in 2013, leading to the preparation of this document.



MANAGING THREATS

Kai Iwi Lakes has seen some significant changes in its management over the years. In early times much of the perimeter of the lakes was grazed and that use perpetuated through to the 1990s. Extensive forestry was established during the late 1960s and harvesting has occurred over the past 20 years, sometimes with dramatic effects. That impact is now healing and a new phase has commenced where restoring the natural ecology of the lakes and their setting has become a primary focus.

Growing populations of people, particularly in Auckland, and constant improvements in transportation will inevitably lead to increasing user numbers and associated pressures. A significant challenge is to ensure that the outstanding status of all three lakes within Kai Iwi Lakes is conserved as demand grows. Amongst the goals of this Reserve Management Plan is to significantly enhance the qualities of Kai Iwi Lakes whilst addressing use pressures.

The aquatic environment of the lakes is particularly vulnerable, with a potential for aggressive exotic species to be accidentally introduced and to then rapidly colonise the lakes. Threats to water quality from the wider catchment that influences the lakes is another significant matter. Reducing the risks and the likelihood of damage to water quality and aquatic ecology requires proactive management and will involve a number of organisations. There is a need to identify potential and pathway risks along with developing measures aimed at risk reduction (particularly education), surveillance, incursion response, readiness and monitoring. Continuing to build knowledge about the natural resources and processes that influence the Lakes will allow a fuller understanding of both the characteristics of the waterbodies and the ways those could be compromised.



Kai Iwi Lakes' terrestrial environment faces a comparable suite of threats, many of which are already well-established. Addressing those land-based environmental challenges also requires scientifically-based programmes and monitoring which are supported with ongoing commitment.



Centrolepis strigosa at shore of Lake Waikare. Current conservation status: 2012 - threatened - nationally critical, still seasonally abundant at Kai Iwi Lakes. Photograph by Lisa Forester NRC 2014-10-13

CULTURAL RELATIONSHIPS

The first Maori ancestor associated with the lakes is Tuputupu Whenua (alias Tumutumu Whenua), whose name means a sprout from the land. He dwelt at Rangirerekura Pa in the nearby Waihopai Valley close to the fishing grounds at Maunganui Bluff, the mussel and toheroa beds of Ripiro Beach, the swamps and kumara gardens of the Waihopai Valley and the eels of the Ngakiriparauri Stream and the lakes. The Waihopai Valley provided an ideal resource rich settlement for early Maori. Tuputupu Whenua's 16th century Te Roroa descendent, Ngaengae lived in the same pa and is known to have made use of the lakes for fishing purposes, as did his son Rangiwatama and the latter's son Ikataora.

A close, long-standing relationship with the lakes and surrounding land leads to Maori regarding them as a taonga (treasure) and important food source. They have fished, lived in the area around the lakes and buried their dead there. Two urupa (burial grounds) are known to exist and a pa site overlooks Lake Kai Iwi from just outside the legal boundaries of the reserve.

The Taharoa Native Reserve was defined in an effort to conserve iwi access to the Lakes when broader land holdings were sold by local Maori.





Evidence presented in relation to the Te Roroa claim (Wai 38) paints an engaging picture of early life⁴. Mr Te Rore tells of packs of 18 horses following the Ngakiriparauri Track between the lakes and Kaihu carrying loads of kauri gum to load onto the train. The importance of the Taharoa eel fishery is acknowledged, being known to complement mussels and toheroa that were gathered from the nearby coast.

Life around the gum kainga (village) was relayed to Mr Te Rore by kuia, who spoke of large nikau-clad “dance houses”, where the ground was levelled, kauri gum dust spread and set to burn. The melted gum then hardened to form a smooth and durable dance floor. Mr Te Rore describes how rama, kauri splinter torches, were constructed in readiness for tuna (eel) fishing expeditions. Another preparation was felling and splitting ti kouka (cabbage trees). The very white wood was laid in the floor of the drain so that the passing eels could be seen against that pale background in the night. This technique was described as being “our x-ray”.

Evidence by Mr Eruera Makoare to the same hearing focused particularly upon eeling activities at the lakes, with the bounty providing for Kaihu people. Eeling was particularly directed toward the historic drain between Lakes Kai Iwi and Taharoa, and selected shallow spots on the margins of the lakes. In good times up to 50 eels of 4.5-5 feet in length would be caught in a single evening. Lake Kai Iwi was known as being the best of the lakes for catching eels. Mr Makoare talks of young people approaching him to teach them the traditional eeling methods.

Settlers of Dalmatian origin were amongst the first Europeans to have an association with the area, forming relationships with local Maori and devoting their energy to digging kauri gum. Unfortunately there is little documented history of this period, however a number of small, gnarled grape vines at Pine Beach and Promenade Point are thought to be part of the Dalmatian legacy.



⁴ Te Rore, T, R (Lovey). Statement of Evidence in relation to a claim by E D Nathan and ors. Te Roroa claim Wai 38

TREATY OF WAITANGI CLAIM

Tangata whenua's long-standing relationship with Kai Iwi Lakes and the wider surrounding area has been varied and ongoing. This status was recognised in a Treaty of Waitangi claim that included land embodied in Kai Iwi Lakes. In numerous places in its report The Waitangi Tribunal recognised that the Kai Iwi lakes were, and still are, an essential mahinga kai for tangata whenua⁵. As a result of its findings, the Tribunal recommended:

That the 250 acre Taharoa Native Reserve, granted as from 8 February 1876 to Parore Te Awha, be restored "as wāhi tapu, papakainga and mahinga kai for tangata whenua" as originally intended.

That recommendation is supported both by tangata whenua and the Office of Treaty Settlements in relation to Kai Iwi Lakes. The Tribunal also acknowledged that there are wāhi tapu in and around the Reserve, leading to a recommendation for the participation of tangata whenua with Council in the management of the reserve. In response, Kaipara District Council voluntarily established co-governance arrangements that provide for the active and equal decision-making that tangata whenua have with local government representatives on the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee.



INTENT OF MANAGEMENT OF KAI IWI LAKES

It is the intention of the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee to implement actions within the Reserve Management Plan that enable Kai Iwi Lakes and its environment to be enjoyed by all visitors while simultaneously enhancing the area and reducing risks through knowledge and active management.

The Taharoa Domain Governance Committee wishes, in the management and use of these lakes, to honour the intent of the original sale by Paramount Chief Te Awha in 1876. When Parore sold the Kai Iwi Lakes land, he sought and was granted back 250 acres as part of the transaction as an inalienable Native Reserve. This area includes Lake Kai Iwi and the land adjoining this lake to Lake Taharoa, including the channel where eels use to cross.

Since the 1876 sale, neither the Crown nor local authorities have honoured the intent of the sale. The Crown did not establish the inalienable Native Reserve that it was supposed to, the eels fishery has largely been destroyed, and exotic species have significantly changed the whole ecosystem.

The Committee has sought, through this Reserve Management Plan, to manage Kai Iwi Lakes for the future in a way that respects the past, as well as the wishes of present generations. Part of respecting the past is to honour the vision for the lakes that have been inherited from Te Roroa, Te Kuihi and Parore Te Awha – that the lakes are open to all to enjoy, that no one has exclusive use, and that no use should compromise the pristine nature of the place and its enjoyment by others. The Vision reflects this, as do the Aims and Objectives. Acknowledging the mana whenua status of Te Roroa and Te Kuihi also reflects this.

⁵ *The Te Roroa Report 1992*. Waitangi Tribunal. Ministry of Justice



VISION

To protect and enhance Taharoa Domain as taonga of global significance for the benefit of present and future generations.

Kia tiaki kia whakareia enei taonga tuku iho ara ko nga roto o Taharoa, hei taonga hiranga o te ao

AIM 1: COLLABORATION

Local government and tangata whenua will co-govern Kai Iwi Lakes and inspire others to share in its care.



OBJECTIVES

- To have effective co-governance arrangements that reflect the active and equal decision-making of local government and tangata whenua.
- To develop a “family” of participants who are committed to working with us to optimise the values of Kai Iwi Lakes.
- To establish opportunities for Kai Iwi Lakes to be a source of cultural and environmental education including through the development of an education facility.

ACTIONS

- The co-governance arrangement is adapted as may be necessary to be reflective of the primary parties who are committed to the ongoing health and well-being of Kai Iwi Lakes. The Committee’s Terms of Reference is updated.
- A volunteer programme is in place.
- Facilitate a regular forum of stakeholders.
- A 10-year communication plan is in place.
- A feasibility study for “Kai Iwi Lakes Education Centre” is completed and implemented.



AIM 2: CULTURAL

The relationships of tangata whenua and other peoples, their history, culture and traditions will be reflected and acknowledged in how Kai Iwi Lakes is developed and cared for.

OBJECTIVES

- To honour the intent by Paramount Chief Parore Te Awha in 1876 that the lakes be open and enjoyed by all.
- To protect the cultural dimension of Kai Iwi Lakes as a fundamental part of its identity and meaning, including the protection of wāhi tapu and archaeological sites.
- To recognise, respect and enhance the cultural and spiritual dimensions of Kai Iwi Lakes and inform visitors of their importance.
- To manage Kai Iwi Lakes holistically as one ecological and cultural system.
- To restore natural, indigenous biota, ecological systems and restore traditional kai.

ACTIONS

- Complete a Cultural Impact Assessment to:
 - acknowledge mana whenua status of Te Roroa and Te Kuihi and guide the kaitiaki (guardian) and manaakitanga (host) responsibilities;
 - better understand the values of native kai;
 - guide the best approach for how to protect wāhi tapu sites; and
 - guide the implementation of this Plan.
- All archaeological and wāhi tapu sites have protection in place.
- An interpretation plan is completed and agreed significant sites have signage that tells their story.
- There is a work programme in place and its progress monitored for the restoration of natural, indigenous biota and kai.
- Phase out forestry after harvest.



PLAN CULTURAL CONTEXT



AIM 3: ENVIRONMENT

Complete knowledge about Kai Iwi Lakes will enable effective protection and enhancement of its natural environment and pristine waters.



OBJECTIVES

- To improve the knowledge we have of Kai Iwi Lakes - its natural ecologies, and the influences and risks to its values and pristine waters - and make this knowledge widely available, including through interpretative signage.
- To use this knowledge to strengthen the integrity and resilience of the natural ecologies and water quality, and engage neighbours to minimise the risk of potentially harmful groundwater reaching Kai Iwi Lakes.
- To implement an ongoing programme of habitat restoration including integrated weed and pest management, and fire protection.
- To use Kai Iwi Lakes, its lakes and surrounds to sustain vulnerable indigenous species by re-establishing appropriate habitats and conditions.
- To improve the knowledge of native and exotic fish stocks in the lakes and the relationship between them.
- To stop the release of exotic fish (trout) by 2018 into Lakes Taharoa and Waikare, but consider re-releasing trout if native species numbers are seen to decline in their absence.
- To pro-actively manage the lakes based on scientific research and analysis and ongoing monitoring programmes developed with key stakeholder organisations.
- To ensure recreational use of the lakes is not detrimental to the water quality, ecology and cultural values.

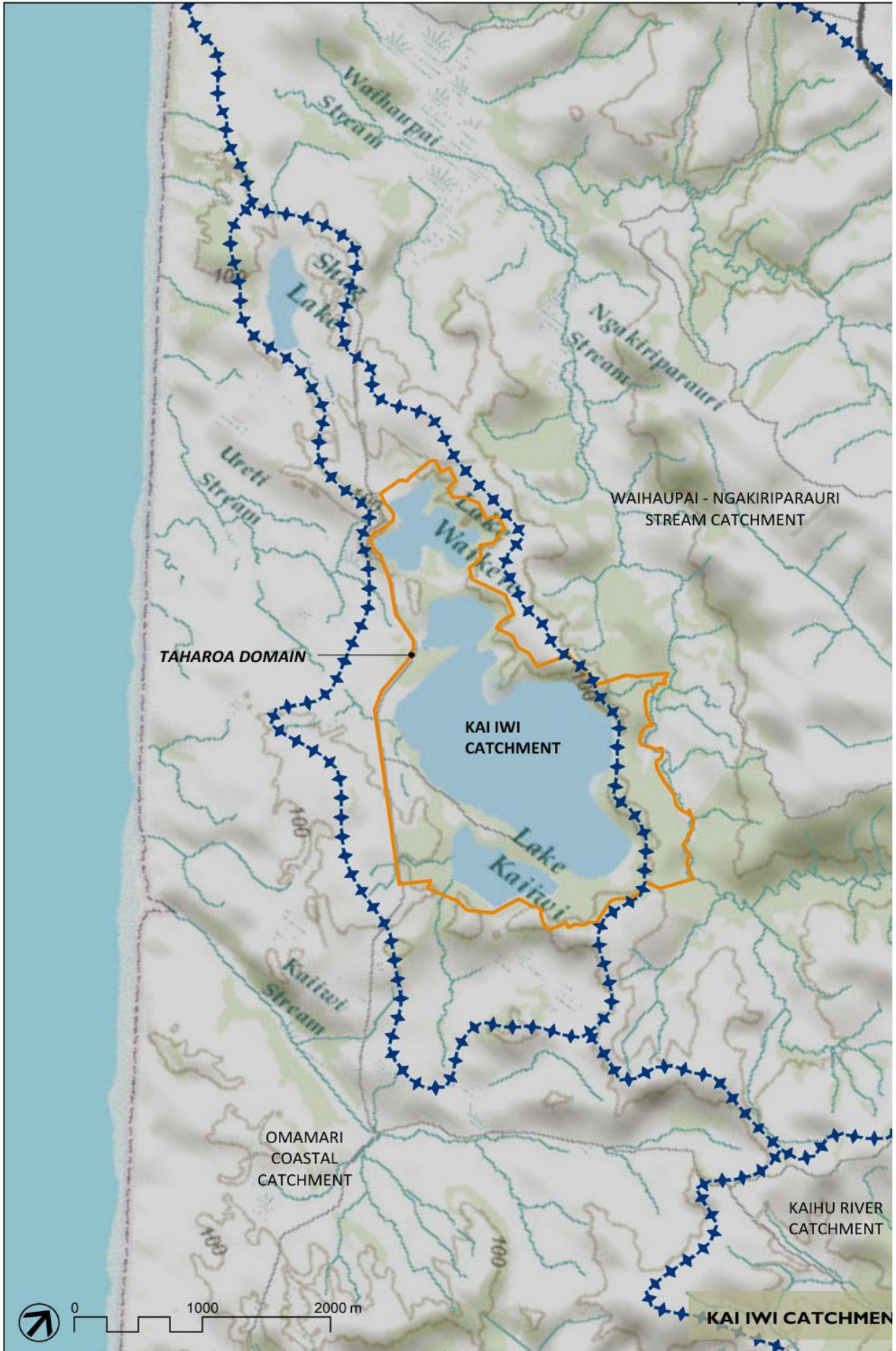


ACTIONS

- Research and data collation programme scoped and in place with progress monitored. Programme to include researching:
 - native and exotic species relationship;
 - water quality;
 - pests and weeds;
 - shoreline erosion; and
 - effects of boating.
- Make available research results to the public via a website and information signage at Kai Iwi Lakes.
- Protection and enhancement of the natural environment and pristine waters will be planned and initiated and updated as more knowledge becomes available. This will involve neighbours.
- A Fire Management Plan is in place for Kai Iwi Lakes.
- Exotic fish releases cease in all lakes by 2018. Monitor changes in other species as the trout population decreases. Consider re-releasing trout if native species are seen to decline in their absence. Consider implementing cost-effective control measures for mosquito fish. Consider using Lake Kai Iwi as a 'control' lake to aid research.
- Co-operate with Northland Regional Council, Department of Conservation and Fish & Game New Zealand to undertake this research.
- Powerboats will not be allowed on Lake Waikare, unless specifically authorised as safety vessels for events, for scientific and research purposes or for management operations.
- Institute biosecurity controls for all boats and recreational equipment.
- Complete a Cultural Impact Assessment to better understand the values of native kai and ensure cultural values inform environmental outcomes.
- Have only one boatramp at Lake Taharoa and one at Lake Waikare to minimise impact on the lakes and vehicles crossing the foreshore.
- Licensing system introduced to ensure boats and users meet the required standard.



PLAN KAI IWI CATCHMENT



AIM 4: RECREATION

A diverse range of recreational activities which are compatible with the cultural and ecological values of Kai Iwi Lakes, will be available for all visitors.



OBJECTIVES

- To optimise visitors' experiences and enjoyment through the development of recreational opportunities (active and passive) which heighten appreciation of the natural and cultural characteristics of Kai Iwi Lakes without compromising its values.
- To position Kai Iwi Lakes to act as a hub for wider walking and cycling linkages.
- To manage the effects of all visitors on the environment through the appropriate design of the landscape and infrastructure.
- To encourage a wide range of social, cultural and sporting events which are compatible with Kai Iwi Lakes' environmental and cultural characteristics, whilst ensuring that these do not result in exclusive use.
- To reduce conflicting water-based activities and enhance the appeal of Lake Waikare as a destination for passive and non-motorised recreation activities e.g. rowing, sailing, kayaking, waka ama, cycling, walking, swimming, paddleboarding etcetera.
- To ensure Lake Taharoa is available for a range of mixed uses e.g. powerboats, swimming, fishing, waka ama, sailing, kayaking etcetera.
- To promote Kai Iwi Lakes as an events venue for events that are compatible with the lakes environment and cultural values, whilst ensuring that this does not result in exclusive use.
- To improve safety within Kai Iwi Lakes and on the lakes by having clear rules, guidelines and information that relate to the activities, coupled with active education.



ACTIONS

- Completion of a landscape and infrastructure plan to effectively manage visitor needs, with monitoring of its implementation. For example:
 - day visitor facilities at key destination points including toilets and picnic facilities;
 - entranceway improvements; and



- campground improvements including more powered sites at Pine Beach.
- Develop dedicated mooring areas for boats.
- Develop dedicated areas for non-motorised craft on Lake Taharoa.
- Completion of a Cultural Impact Assessment to inform the recreational use.
- Complete a plan for extended and new walking and cycling track networks with monitoring of implementation.
- Actively improve and promote safety education within Kai Iwi Lakes with appropriate signage at key points along with monitoring of lake users.



- A business case is completed, and implemented, for a Domain Manager's residence and adjacent workyard.
- Powerboats will not be allowed on Lake Waikare, unless specifically authorised as safety vessels for events, scientific and research purposes, and for management operations.
- Promote Kai Iwi Lakes as an events and training venue appropriate to the values of this lake.
- Develop dedicated swimming areas in both Lakes Taharoa and Waikare, where boats are not allowed to be moored or used.
- Watercraft launching facilities are limited to a single defined point at Lake Taharoa and Lake Waikare.
- Biosecurity checking bay/s are developed and supported by related information at each launching point.
- Licensing system established to ensure all users and their vessels meet the required biosecurity standards.
- Work with Northland Regional Council to develop and implement a bylaw that controls boats, biosecurity and speed etcetera on the lakes.



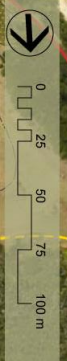
PLAN KAI IWI LAKES OVERALL CONCEPT



PLAN CONCEPT PINE BEACH



PLAN CONCEPT PROMENADE POINT



Formalise walking route connections with coastal track to Maungamui Bluff and beyond.

Dry vault or composting toilet.
Camping area subtly improved. Provide low key, rustic park furniture.
Portoon for swimmers.

Integrity of point shrubland cover restored. Discrete fences set amongst planting to prevent future informal access. Likely need for temporary fences to margins during establishment.

Existing toilets. Minor refinement of parking and more emphasis on pedestrians.

2m wide, subtly fenced pedestrian access.

Camping area subtly improved. Provide low key, rustic park furniture.

- GENERAL NOTES**
- Progressively rationalise recent planting to be ecologically appropriate.
 - Ensure that vehicle control is very subtle, but effective eg. steep roadside swales and/or more informal bollards
 - Emphasise walking/cycling loop entry points.

Review existing signs and add/replace with strategic signs to advise on recreation, ecology, restoration initiatives etc.

Lakeside access loop subtly upgraded to allow for quad or small tractor and trailer.

Potential restoration planting, see overall concept.

KEY NOTES

- Native tree planting to create structure, wind shelter and shade. Potential to add non-invasive, fast growing exotics to provide short term shade etc.
- Restoration of lake-edge vegetation using endemic species. Discrete fences set amongst planting to prevent future informal access. Likely need for temporary fences to margins during establishment.

CONCEPT PROMENADE POINT



AIM 5: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Kai Iwi Lakes will be promoted and developed as an educational, scientific and tourist destination.



OBJECTIVES

- To promote Kai Iwi Lakes widely as a passive and active recreation visitor attraction.
- To promote Kai Iwi Lakes as an events venue for events that are compatible with the lakes environment and cultural values, whilst ensuring that this does not result in exclusive use.
- To develop Kai Iwi Lakes so that it offers attractions which are used throughout the year.
- To develop services and facilities to attract visitors from education and science sectors.
- To re-establish Kai Iwi Lakes' natural flora and fauna as the centre piece to its economic development and sustainability.

ACTIONS

- A promotional strategy is completed and implemented to reinforce Kai Iwi Lakes' reputation as a destination, sitting alongside allied local attractions like Waipoua Forest (The Kauri Coast Experience).
- Digital media is being effectively applied to evocatively portray the values of Kai Iwi Lakes.
- An Infrastructure Development Plan is completed to include design and feasibility assessment for new/extended visitor facilities (including accommodation) and recreational opportunities to generate a wider spread of use and revenues throughout the seasons.
- Production forestry practices are discontinued after harvest and replaced with a focus upon restoration and re-vegetation of Kai Iwi Lakes.



PLAN REGIONAL CONTEXT



PLAN POTENTIAL NATIONAL CYCLE CIRCUIT AND KEY LINKAGES



AIM 6: RESOURCING

Kai Iwi Lakes and its promotion will be managed in a way that encourages a spectrum of resources that support its stewardship.



OBJECTIVES

- To increase revenues from sources other than Council.
- To manage the finances in a business-like manner including an annual business plan and budget.
- To encourage sponsorship and partnerships which contribute resources in cash and/or kind.
- To develop and manage the campground to achieve improved revenue.
- To establish concession arrangements that are assessed for alignment with the Vision and Aims of the Kai Iwi Lakes (Taharoa Domain) Reserve Management Plan.



- A strategy is in place to pursue funding from other agencies and is actively implemented.
- Expected performance (financial and non-financial) is well-documented with performance monitored against targets.
- A comprehensive business plan is established, monitored and adjusted on an annual basis.
- Sponsors, other funding agencies and volunteers are involved in a range of initiatives.
- Camp fees are reviewed and benchmarked against comparable facilities elsewhere in Northland.
- The campground is achieving improved occupancy, including outside of peak season.
- Approve concession/s where they are appropriate to provide alternate revenue and where they provide reinvested revenue for Kai Iwi Lakes.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

The legislative impetus for preparing a Reserve Management Plan is contained in the Reserves Act 1977. That statute requires that a management plan shall provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection and preservation of the reserve, along with providing for development where resources are available. Management plans are expected to be kept under continuous review to adapt to changing circumstances or increased knowledge.

Kai Iwi Lakes is classified as a recreation reserve under the Act and it is considered that this status continues to best cater for the widespread recreational use of the reserve whilst also acknowledging the importance of managing and protecting natural and cultural values.



The land use within Kai Iwi Lakes is defined by the Kaipara District Plan and Northland Regional Council's plans (the Regional Water and Soil Plan for Northland in relation to Kai Iwi Lakes) and policy statement. Those documents contain a number of provisions which influence the management and development of Kai Iwi Lakes, particularly in relation to its status as an outstanding landscape, its natural character, social and cultural values and water quality. Activities like earthworks, vegetation clearance, construction of buildings and changes within or near water bodies are controlled as a result.

The Conservation Act 1987 details conservation and wildlife management responsibilities. This legislation makes provision for other organisations to manage sports fish and game, and sets requirements for related management plans covering those recreational resources. The Act requires those plans to have regard to matters of sustainability and the effect that the activity may have on other natural resources.



ADMINISTRATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

The Reserves Act 1977 anticipates that management plans will be under continuous review in response to improved knowledge or changing circumstances. It is expected that the outcomes contained in this Plan, in particular, will require adjustment over time as tasks are achieved and directions refined. The Aims and Objectives set out are predicted to remain relevant, however may require refinement or supplementing. Actions will change as they are achieved.

Any comprehensive review or significant adjustment to the Reserve Management Plan will require the processes set out in s41 of the Reserves Act to be followed.

