

Taupō District Council

Notes of Regulatory Committee Workshop

Group	Regulatory Committee
Date	Tuesday 13 October 2026, 1pm-2.10pm
Venue	Council Chamber
Topic	District-wide Reserves Management Plan
Facilitated by	Kara Scott, Senior Policy Advisor and Haydee Wood, Policy Advisor
Elected Members present	Cr Rachel Cameron (in the Chair), Cr Nicola de Lautour, Mayor John Funnell (until 1.51pm), Cr Sandra Greenslade, Cr Kylie Leonard, Cr Kevin Taylor, Cr Hope Woodward
Officers present	General Manager Strategy and Environment (W Zander), Policy Manager (N Carroll), Parks and Reserves Manager (J Gordon), Events and Venues Manager (S Giles), Team Leader Resource Management and Reserve Planning (E O'Callaghan), Parks Advisor Planning and Operations (B Vi), Environmental Advisor (E Naylor), Senior Community Development Advisor (G Smith), Senior Committee Advisor (K Watts)
Public / media present	Veronica Maree, Sport Waikato Two members of the public
Documents either pre-circulated or tabled	<i>District Wide Reserves Management Plan Feedback summary (A3989793)</i> <i>District Wide Reserves Management Plan Feedback – Final Report – Page 1-105 (A3989794)</i> <i>District Wide Reserves Management Plan Feedback – Final Report – Page 106-210 (A3989797)</i> <i>District Wide Reserves Management Plan Feedback – Final Report – Page 211-316 (A3989796)</i> <i>District Wide Reserves Management Plan Feedback – Final Report – Page 317-419 (A3989795)</i>
Public or closed¹	<i>Public</i>

Notes²

The purpose of the workshop was to present findings of public engagement and identify and consider key issues to be addressed in the development of the district-wide reserves management plan.

The Senior Policy Advisor and Policy Advisor introduced themselves and their roles, as well as key staff present to speak about feedback received to inform the draft Reserve Management Plan (RMP). They shared a PowerPoint presentation (A3989798).

¹ Workshops are public (and are always advertised whether public or closed), unless there is a good reason(s) for information to be withheld and there is no overriding public interest in holding the workshop in public. Withholding grounds set out in the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) are a guide. If closed, cite relevant LGOIMA section.
² Workshops are not decision-making forums, therefore this document contains notes of key points discussed only, not decisions.

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Due to a change in legislation, approval to formally consult with the community on the draft Reserves Management Plan would be required from full Council (rather than the committee). The Policy Advisor summarised the engagement undertaken over August and September 2026 and thanked all involved. There had been multiple ways for people to provide feedback, and this had helped to identify key themes.

Overall, the feedback indicated that the community preferred that the updated plan meet the diverse recreational needs across the district, recognised the cultural values and heritage, balanced recreation facilities with natural environments, provided greater clarity on public access and leased areas, and improved planning of the future open spaces network.

Key topics were discussed with input from council officers:

- Simplifying RMPs without losing local community aspirations
Many of the current RMPs had detailed actions and project-specific proposals in them which had not happened and created unrealised expectations. The updated RMP was proposed to be strategic and focused on long-term vision, objectives and policies. So that the background information and aspirations of previous plans were not lost, these would be detailed alongside but separate to the updated RMP.

The Senior Community Development Advisor introduced herself to members and explained that in her role she worked alongside communities, encouraging them to develop their own community-led plans to improve connection and wellbeing. She also supported voluntary organisations to help them become more sustainable and less reliant on Council funding. In the context of the RMP, a community plan could connect the RMP with outcomes that the community wanted, and reflect what mattered to people of that community. She listed examples including the Wairakei Community Group who were looking to create a community garden and safe access across State Highways One and Five. In Mangakino, the community was building relationships to explore priorities to strengthen community connections. In Motuoapa the community was planning activities such as planting to all work together. Acacia Bay North was working on improving access to the lakefront. In Kinloch, the Kinloch Community Association had a community-led initiative to improve access to the lakefront for those with disabilities and families with pushchairs by providing a beach mat.

- Improved Accessibility and Safety in multi-use areas and paths
Council was working with Taupō Disability Focus on practical improvements to make reserves more accessible and inclusive. A partnership approach was very important to progress community projects such as this. It was suggested that accessibility be highlighted as a priority in the updated RMP because future proofing helped everyone.
- Better clarity for Sports Clubs inclusion / relocations within reserves
The Events and Venues Manager explained that the updated RMP would be broader in scope, and the detail would be in other documents such as Annual Plans and Long-term Plans. A lot of the feedback received had included requests for infrastructure by sports groups. These would be part of maintenance and levels of service in the Long-term Plan. Combining different codes of sport by creating hubs was being looked at as part of the Long-term Plan development. The Parks Advisor Planning and Operations advised that the updated RMP would remove barriers for clubs and organisations with leases on reserves, many of which expired in 2030.
- Consideration of non-self-contained Freedom Camping at Hipapatua Reserve
The Parks and Reserves Manager advised that approximately \$40,000 was spent operationally at this reserve, mostly for Portaloo hire, a dishwashing station which required staff to bring in clean water and pump grey water out, and for security. The dishwashing station was needed because there were no reticulated water services at the reserve. Security was for enforcing the liquor bylaw over the New Year period and locking gates in the day area of the reserve.
The reserve had three toilets which were cleaned by Parks and Reserves staff and would remain if the reserve was restricted to camping for self-contained vehicles only.

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The Policy Advisor clarified that a bylaw review and change to the bylaw would need to occur to make the reserve accessible to only self-contained vehicles. A poll could be carried out during the formal consultation on the draft Reserve Management Plan to inform a potential bylaw change in the future. While members recognised that restricting camping to self-contained vehicles could address some issues, it would also exclude those that enjoyed camping and were not self-contained.

- Dog Exercise Areas – potential to increase these and bylaw process
A lot of feedback received had requested fenced-off areas for exercising dogs. The Parks and Reserves Manager advised that there was a designated area at Spa Park which could be developed in the future as a fenced dog exercise area but had not been yet. The Parks and Reserves team received a lot of service requests asking for areas to exercise dogs. This was informing Long-term Plan development. Feedback received would also be used to inform a future dog control bylaw review.

The Senior Policy Advisor talked about other topics raised in the feedback received which were dealt with by other policies or bylaws. A further workshop would be held on Tuesday 3 November to look at draft wording for the RMP.

In answer to questions and discussion, the following was clarified:

- Stormwater gullies and reserves that were not recreation reserves were not in the scope of this review. These reserves were local purpose reserves and managed by the relevant asset manager e.g. Stormwater asset manager.
- Any feedback received about reserves not owned by Council, such as Department of Conservation reserves had been forwarded to the relevant organisation.
- Members of the public that had raised feedback out of scope would be acknowledged and advised of next steps.
- Detailed community-led plans would have a dedicated page on Council's website and be linked through to the Reserve Management Plan.

The workshop closed at 2.10pm.