

OPEN AGENDA



Ōtorohanga District Council Hearings Panel

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Ōtorohanga District Council Hearings Panel will be held to hear and deliberate on the Ōtorohanga Reserve Strategy & Management Plan in Waikōwhitiwhiti (Council Chambers), Ōtorohanga District Council, 17 Maniapoto Street, Ōtorohanga on Tuesday, 11 February 2025 commencing at 10.00am.

Tanya Winter, Chief Executive

3 February 2025

Membership

Chairperson

Deputy Chairperson

Ōtorohanga District Councillor

Ōtorohanga District Councillor

Ōtorohanga District Councillor

Ōtorohanga District Councillor

Ōtorohanga District Councillor

Ōtorohanga District Councillor

Ōtorohanga District Councillor

Ōtorohanga District Councillor

Ōtorohanga Community Board

Ōtorohanga Community Board

Ōtorohanga Community Board

Ōtorohanga Community Board

Mana whenua representative

Mana whenua representative

His Worship the Mayor, Max Baxter

Deputy Mayor, Annette Williams

Kit Jeffries

Rodney Dow

Katrina Christison

Steve Hughes

Jaimee Tamaki

Roy Willison

Roy Johnson

Cathy Prendergast

Jo Butcher

Peter Coventry

Kat Brown-Merrin

Tori Muller

Whakaotirangi Paki

Wikitōria Tane

All attendees at this meeting are advised that the meeting will be electronically recorded (audio and video) for the purpose of webcasting to the Council's YouTube channel. Every care will be taken to maintain individuals' privacy; however, attendees are advised they may be recorded as part of the general meeting proceedings.

ORDER OF AGENDA

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HEARINGS REPORT

Item 3: Ōtorohanga Reserve Strategy & Management Plan hearing and deliberations	4
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The following submitters have requested to be heard:

- Submitter: Ōtorohanga Museum (Liz Cowan)
- Submitter: Ōtorohanga Kiwi House (Jo Russell, Kim Ingham and Robbie Neha)
- Submitter: Ōtorohanga Domain Sports/Football Club (David Bailey)
- Submitter: Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand (Elvisa van der Leden)

CLOSING FORMALITIES

Closing prayer/reflection/words of wisdom Karakia/huritao/whakataukī	37
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PLEASE NOTE

The reports attached to this Open Agenda set out recommendations and suggested resolutions only. Those recommendations and suggested resolutions DO NOT represent Ōtorohanga District Council policy until such time as they might be adopted by Council resolution. This Open Agenda may be subject to amendment either by the addition or withdrawal of items contained therein.

OPENING FORMALITIES

COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING | TE TĪMATANGA O TE HUI

The Chairperson will confirm the livestream to YouTube is active then declare the meeting open.

OPENING PRAYER/REFLECTION/WORDS OF WISDOM | KARAKIA/HURITAO/WHAKATAUKĪ

APOLOGIES | NGĀ HŌNEA

A member who does not have leave of absence may tender an apology should they be absent from all or part of a meeting. The meeting may accept or decline any apologies. For clarification, the acceptance of a member’s apology constitutes a grant of ‘leave of absence’ for that specific meeting(s).

Staff recommendation

That Ōtorohanga District Council Hearings Panel receive and accept the apologies for non-attendance from:

- Ōtorohanga Community Board Members Peter Coventry and Kat Brown-Merrin, and
- Councillors Steve Hughes and Roy Willison.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST | TE WHAKAPUAKANGA PĀNGA TAHARUA

Members are reminded to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as an elected member and any private or external interest they may have.

Should any conflicts be declared the following recommendation is made: *That Ōtorohanga District Council Hearings Panel receive the declaration of a conflict of interest from ... for item ... and direct the conflict to be recorded in Council’s Conflicts of Interest Register.*

DECISION REPORTS

DISCLAIMER: The reports attached to this Open Agenda set out recommendations and suggested resolutions only. Those recommendations and suggested resolutions DO NOT represent Ōtorohanga District Council policy until such time as they might be adopted by formal resolution. This Open Agenda may be subject to amendment either by the addition or withdrawal of items contained therein.

Item 3 Draft Ōtorohanga Reserves Strategy and Management Plan – Hearing and Consideration of Feedback/Submissions

To Hearings Panel (comprising Ōtorohanga District Council, Ōtorohanga Community Board and Mana Whenua representatives)

From Sahndra Cave, Community Projects Lead

Type **DECISION REPORT**

Date 11 February 2025



1. Purpose | Te kaupapa

1.1. To hear, consider and provide direction to Ōtorohanga District Council (ŌDC) on the feedback/submissions received on the draft Ōtorohanga Reserves Strategy and Management Plan.

2. Executive summary | Whakarāpopoto matua

- 2.1. The draft Ōtorohanga Reserves Strategy and Management Plan (ŌRSMP) was open for public consultation from 1 November 2024 to 24 January 2025. During that time 16 submissions were received (1 late), with four submitters wishing to speak to their submission.
- 2.2. The hearings schedule, summary of submissions and a full copy of each submission received are attached as Appendices 1, 2 and 3 respectively.
- 2.3. The Hearings Panel will hear from submitters wishing to speak and consider all submissions received so as to be clear about what submitters are seeking. Having considered all submissions, the Hearings Panel will provide direction to Council as to what changes (if any) should be made to the draft ŌRSMP. It will be up to Council to decide what, if any, changes will be made prior to adopting the ŌRSMP.

3. Staff recommendation | Tūtohutanga a ngā kaimahi

That, having considered the feedback/submissions received on the draft Ōtorohanga Reserves Strategy and Management Plan, the Hearings Panel (comprising Ōtorohanga District Council, Ōtorohanga Community Board and Mana Whenua representatives) refer the Draft Strategy/Plan to the Ōtorohanga District Council for adoption with the following recommended changes...

4. Context | Horopaki

4.1. The ŌRSMP process has involved extensive community/stakeholder engagement, including regular engagement with local mana whenua and a group of representatives from local sports clubs. A project advisory group made up of staff, elected members and mana whenua representatives has supported the project through to this stage.

- 4.2. The process followed has involved extensive investigation and analysis, gathering and reflecting back information on issues, challenges and opportunities. The resulting assessment of issues and opportunities has culminated in the development of the draft ŌRSMP, reflecting options on the development of two key reserves - Island Reserve and Ōtorohanga Domain. The significance of Huipūtea Reserve is reflected in the draft ŌRSMP as a primary open space area with unique cultural and ecological values. Overall, the draft ŌRSMP reflects what partners, stakeholders and the community have told us is important.
- 4.3. The inclusion of a Management Plan section in the document reflects the need to fulfil the reserve management plan requirements set out in the Reserves Act 1977. This is an omnibus approach, being the most effective and efficient way of capturing the future development and management arrangements for all reserves within Ōtorohanga township.
- 4.4. The draft ŌRSMP was ready for consultation in June 2024. However, at that time Council delayed its release to explore the option of developing active recreation spaces (such as sports fields) on land on Ōtewa Road which is to be gifted to Council for the establishment of a rural park. That process concluded the property was not suitable for sports fields, and that the ŌRSMP process should continue.
- 4.5. The draft ŌRSMP was released for public feedback/submissions on 1 November 2024, with the consultation period ending 24 January 2025. This exceeded the minimum required consultation period by 3 weeks – a reflection of the Christmas/New Year holiday period.

5. Discussion | He kōrerorero

- 5.1. A total of 15 submissions have been received, with three submitters wishing to speak to their submission. The hearings schedule, summary of submissions and a full copy of each submission received are attached as Appendices 1, 2 and 3 respectively.
- 5.2. Following the hearing and consideration of feedback/submissions, decisions need to be made on the matters raised by submitters. This direction may result in the draft ŌRSMP being amended and referred to the Council for adoption. Where appropriate, to assist with the consideration of submissions, staff comments are provided in relation to the matters raised by submitters.
- 5.3. The adoption of the ŌRSMP does not automatically mean every action/project signalled will be progressed as a matter of course. This document should be treated as a blueprint – to guide the future development of local reserves - so any actions/projects to be led by Ōtorohanga District Council will need to be prioritised against available resourcing. Council's LTP includes \$600K per annum (2024-2027) to support the implementation of Concept Plans, of which the ŌRSMP is a key project. In addition, some of the proposed larger projects will require further work to establish a clear scope (i.e. nature, extent, timing and cost) for consideration before any decisions can be made to proceed. Further, some projects (e.g. development of sports facilities) will need to be heavily supported by other groups/organisations (e.g. sports clubs) and are reliant on securing significant external (non-Council) funding. These initiatives are unlikely to proceed until that funding is in place (noting some staging of development will be possible).

6. Appendices | Ngā āpitihanga

Number	Title	Document number
1	Schedule of Hearings	
2	Summary of submissions received	
3	Full copies of all submissions received	

Appendix 1 – Schedule of Hearings

The following submitters have requested to be heard and will commence at approximately 10.10am. Each submitter will have 5 minutes to speak and a further 5 minutes has been scheduled in case Panel Members has questions.

Submitter: Ōtorohanga Museum	Liz Cowan
Submitter: Ōtorohanga Kiwi House	Jo Russell, Kim Ingham, and Robbie Neha (via Zoom)
Submitter: Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand	Elvisa van der Leden
Submitter: Ōtorohanga Domain Sports/Football Club	David Bailey

APPENDIX 2

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED

DRAFT RESERVES MANAGEMENT STRATEGY - SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS

Submitter	Tracey Carter	Marianne Walton	Elisabeth Cowan	Alasdair Laws	Suzanne Tucker	Monica Clark	Robbie Neha	Kim Ingham	Andrea Pye	Matthew Ronaldson	Carly Hill	Heather Taylor	Joanna Russell	Elvira van der Leden	Murray Loewenthal	David Bailey
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Speaking to Submission?																
Key Submission Points	In Support of RMS	Urgency of Netball Club's needs, courts unfit	Wording re Cultural Heritage & lack of reference to Museum	Football facilities below par. Desire for 2 full resurfaced fields				Increased need for parking at Kiwi House			Increased need for parking at Kiwi House	Would like fenced dog exercise area	Kiwi House Concerns about Domain lighting & requires extra parking	General support for Reserves Strategy Supports ŌDC continued focus on restoration of natural areas/values Include conservation/ biodiversity objectives & policies ŌDC identify/plan for SNAs in parks/reserves Phase out grazing in parks/reserves Give emphasis to pest control Support ecological corridor concept Encourage only native planting, incl habitats for native lizards	Support for Kiwi House Parking	Support for Football Club to use ex caravan park land
Island Reserve options																
Option 1 on page 15 of the draft plan Two Rugby fields/multi-purpose fields									✓							
Option 2 on page 16 of the draft plan Two Rugby fields/multi-purpose fields & Football field Upgraded facilities to accommodate netball and Tigers Enhanced parking for approximately 220 cars to accommodate growth	✓	✓					✓			✓	✓					
No preference indicated			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ōtorohanga Domain options																
Option 1 on page 20 of the draft plan Motorcamp to be decommissioned and Domain fields extended to accommodate two full sized Football fields				✓												✓
Option 2 on page 21 of the draft plan Motorcamp to be decommissioned and converted to parking for Ōtorohanga Kiwi House	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	
No preference indicated		✓	✓									✓		✓		

*Late Submission

APPENDIX 3

FULL COPIES OF ALL SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED

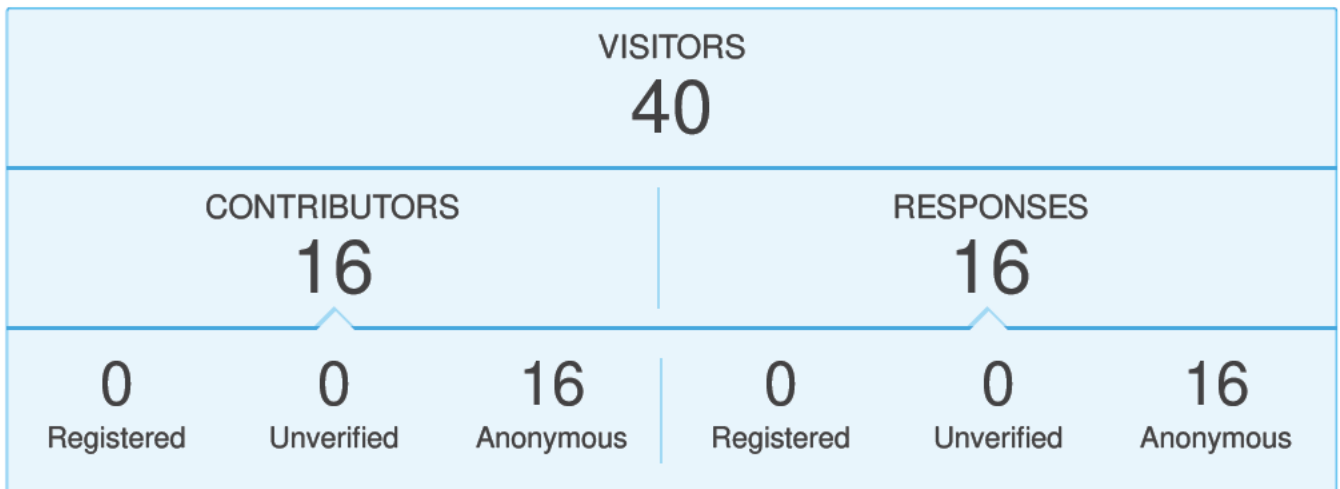
Survey Responses

01 November 2024 - 29 January 2025

Reserves Management Strategy and Plan - submission form

Connecting Ōtorohanga

Project: Reserves Management Strategy





Respondent No: 1

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: Nov 01, 2024 11:04:47 am

Last Seen: Nov 01, 2024 11:04:47 am

IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Full name** Tracey Carter

Q2. **Organisation (if applicable)**

[REDACTED]

Q3. **Email**

[REDACTED]

Q4. **Address**

[REDACTED]

Q5. **Do you want to speak to your submission?**

No

Q6. **Phone number**

[REDACTED]

Q7. **Please provide any feedback you have on the Draft Reserves Management Strategy and Plan below**

Congratulations on a well considered approach to our parks and reserves!

Q8. **Island Reserve options**

Option 2 on page 16 of the draft plan

Q9. **Ōtorohanga Domain options**

Option 2 on page 21 of the draft plan

Q10. **Do you have a supporting document to upload?**

not answered

[You can do so here](#)

Q11. **Any further comments?**

So impressed with the thought that has gone into this piece of work. Particularly love the the approach to connecting spaces, 5km circuit and the consideration of natives and signage.



Respondent No: 2

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: Nov 07, 2024 17:25:37 pm

Last Seen: Nov 07, 2024 17:25:37 pm

IP Address: n/a

Q1. Full name	Marriane Walton
Q2. Organisation (if applicable)	Otorohanga Netball
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Address	[REDACTED]
Q5. Do you want to speak to your submission?	No
Q6. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q7. Please provide any feedback you have on the Draft Reserves Management Strategy and Plan below	<p>Netball's needs are becoming urgent. The courts are fast becoming unfit for purpose, if not already. Safety is a concern for players, umpires and spectators alike.</p>
Q8. Island Reserve options	Option 2 on page 16 of the draft plan
Q9. Ōtorohanga Domain options	N/A
Q10. Do you have a supporting document to upload?	not answered
You can do so here	
Q11. Any further comments?	<p>Both options at Island Reserve show Netball having less courts than we currently have. For the sport to grow, we need at least the number we have now, if not more. With only 6 courts, there is no allowance for a pre-game warm-up area - an important part of the game.</p>



Respondent No: 3

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: Nov 20, 2024 07:21:17 am

Last Seen: Nov 20, 2024 07:21:17 am

IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Full name** Elisabeth Cowan

Q2. **Organisation (if applicable)** not answered

Q3. **Email**

[REDACTED]

Q4. **Address**

[REDACTED]

Q5. **Do you want to speak to your submission?** No

Q6. **Phone number**

[REDACTED]

Q7. **Please provide any feedback you have on the Draft Reserves Management Strategy and Plan below**

I am concerned about the following statement in the draft plan: "Expression of Cultural Heritage Constraints and Challenges While a range of parks reflect historic heritage, there is currently little recognition of the long Māori history in Ōtorohanga. There are a range of sites within parks and reserves that have significant heritage value for mana whenua; however, this is not reflected clearly or understood by the wider community". This appears to ignore the information provided at these sites: 1. Ōtorohanga Reserve (a.k.a. Village Green) – (a) two prominent pou represent significant Ngati Maniapoto historical leaders with accompanying information plaques (b) a hinuera stone sculpture honours the original land owners (2 sisters) with a description of same (in place since December 1998). 2. Memorial Park. Te Rohe Potae sculpture & plaque commemorating and explaining the origins of Te Rohe Potae - narrative by Kaumatua, Richard Rangitaawa. (In place since 2001) 3. Ōtorohanga Museum (Te Waonui o Tāne building) – holds the largest and most significant collection of Ngati Maniapoto artifacts in the area, including the partially carved waka recovered in 2003. There is comprehensive information, photos acknowledgement about Ōtorohanga 's Maori history. This is a community facility open to the public at no charge and receives many visitors both local, national & international. (The museum will celebrate its 50th anniversary in November 2024) There also appears to be minimal reference to the Ōtorohanga Museum under the headings "Legal classification" and "Descriptions and acknowledgment of areas". The museum buildings and surrounding Reserve land are owned by the Ōtorohanga District Council and this should be better reflected in the Plan. While acknowledgement of Ōtorohanga's Maori heritage in other areas may be lacking, it is important to include the significant sites noted above.

Q8. **Island Reserve options** N/A

Q9. **Ōtorohanga Domain options** N/A

Q10. **Do you have a supporting document to upload?** not answered

[You can do so here](#)

Q11. **Any further comments?**

not answered



Respondent No: 4

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: Dec 10, 2024 11:51:36 am

Last Seen: Dec 10, 2024 11:51:36 am

IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Full name** Alasdair Laws

Q2. **Organisation (if applicable)** not answered

Q3. **Email**

[REDACTED]

Q4. **Address**

[REDACTED]

Q5. **Do you want to speak to your submission?** No

Q6. **Phone number** not answered

Q7. **Please provide any feedback you have on the Draft Reserves Management Strategy and Plan below**

Football is very strong in Otorohanga throughout winter and summer. Unfortunately our facilities are below par now and we need the entire domain upgraded - having two full, professionally resurfaced fields would allow our club to prosper, as games would not have to be called off and/or moved to the college - allowing our teams to play alongside each other also.

Q8. **Island Reserve options** N/A

Q9. **Ōtorohanga Domain options** Option 1 on page 20 of the draft plan

Q10. **Do you have a supporting document to upload?** not answered

You can do so here

Q11. **Any further comments?**

not answered



Respondent No: 5

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: Jan 15, 2025 08:01:20 am

Last Seen: Jan 15, 2025 08:01:20 am

IP Address: n/a

Q1. Full name	Suzanne Tucker
Q2. Organisation (if applicable)	[REDACTED]
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Address	[REDACTED]
Q5. Do you want to speak to your submission?	No
Q6. Phone number	not answered
Q7. Please provide any feedback you have on the Draft Reserves Management Strategy and Plan below	not answered
Q8. Island Reserve options	N/A
Q9. Ōtorohanga Domain options	Option 2 on page 21 of the draft plan
Q10. Do you have a supporting document to upload? You can do so here	not answered
Q11. Any further comments?	not answered



Respondent No: 6

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: Jan 17, 2025 12:07:56 pm

Last Seen: Jan 17, 2025 12:07:56 pm

IP Address: n/a

Q1. Full name	Monica Clark
Q2. Organisation (if applicable)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Address	[REDACTED]
Q5. Do you want to speak to your submission?	No
Q6. Phone number	not answered
Q7. Please provide any feedback you have on the Draft Reserves Management Strategy and Plan below	not answered
Q8. Island Reserve options	N/A
Q9. Ōtorohanga Domain options	Option 2 on page 21 of the draft plan
Q10. Do you have a supporting document to upload? You can do so here	not answered
Q11. Any further comments?	<p>The Kiwi House needs to be able to accommodate increased visitor numbers in a convenient and safe manner. The flow on benefits of these tourism dollars will benefit the community as a whole, with increased job opportunities, increased traffic to other local businesses and the increased ability of the Kiwi House to invest in local conservation initiatives.</p>



Respondent No: 7

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: Jan 17, 2025 12:27:44 pm

Last Seen: Jan 17, 2025 12:27:44 pm

IP Address: n/a

Q1. Full name	Robbie Neha
Q2. Organisation (if applicable)	Tārewanga Marae
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Address	[REDACTED]
Q5. Do you want to speak to your submission?	No
Q6. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q7. Please provide any feedback you have on the Draft Reserves Management Strategy and Plan below	not answered
Q8. Island Reserve options	Option 2 on page 16 of the draft plan
Q9. Ōtorohanga Domain options	Option 2 on page 21 of the draft plan
Q10. Do you have a supporting document to upload? You can do so here	not answered
Q11. Any further comments?	not answered



Respondent No: 8

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: Jan 20, 2025 18:01:38 pm

Last Seen: Jan 20, 2025 18:01:38 pm

IP Address: n/a

Q1. Full name	Kim Ingham
Q2. Organisation (if applicable)	Ōtorohanga Kiwi House
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Address	[REDACTED]
Q5. Do you want to speak to your submission?	Yes
Q6. Phone number	[REDACTED]

Q7. Please provide any feedback you have on the Draft Reserves Management Strategy and Plan below

The Ōtorohanga Kiwi House Charitable Trust has spent over \$4M to date on the site wide upgrade of our 50 year old facilities. Kānoa and the Ōtorohanga District Council are our major partners thus far. We have a goal of providing more than 20 new full time roles for employment for this community, and a business plan that will bring a more than \$1M profit per annum once our project is fully realised. The Project is a pioneering development that combines ecological sustainability, specialist conservation programmes, and community empowerment through economic, social and cultural initiatives. To date, Zone 1 of this project has already enabled the Kiwi House to bring one critically endangered species back from the brink of extinction. Facilities of this capacity are vital to protect endangered species, particularly those affected by climate related emergencies. As the environmental hub for the South Waikato sub-region the project is also playing a crucial role in developing two critical predator-free corridors, linking Maungatautari south to Taupō and Pirongia south to Waitomo creating long term carbon sinks in native forests protecting the remaining vestiges of pre-human podocarp forests. The expansion of car parking at the Kiwi House will allow the space for the requirements of the development to reach its full potential, and also allow car parking out of hours for other visitors to the Domain precinct. This is especially valuable during the summer soccer season where a huge number of vehicles make for dangerous pedestrian conditions especially for children around the whole Domain. The opportunity that will be given to the College through the potential investment in sports fields is another strong reason for selecting option 2 in this plan. The students at the College are from our socially deprived community, with a index of 9 on the scale of 1-10. They will benefit from upgraded facilities and interaction in our space from members of the community who may become role models. The college has worked very hard over the past 4 years to raise standards and the success is evidenced by the roll continuing to grow to levels not seen for many years. Support from the Council and community for these facilities will further enhance the mana of our rangatahi. The College also has the capacity to accommodate a third soccer field in the future on our substantial grounds if needed. Option 2 of the plan allows two soccer fields preferred by the soccer club, one of them being at the College which allows for substantial benefits for that vital community entity, and it allows the Kiwi House development to be completed to it's full potential.

Q8. Island Reserve options	N/A
Q9. Ōtorohanga Domain options	Option 2 on page 21 of the draft plan
Q10. Do you have a supporting document to upload? You can do so here	not answered
Q11. Any further comments?	not answered



Respondent No: 9

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: Jan 20, 2025 18:12:17 pm

Last Seen: Jan 20, 2025 18:12:17 pm

IP Address: n/a

Q1. Full name	Andrea Pye
Q2. Organisation (if applicable)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Address	not answered
Q5. Do you want to speak to your submission?	No
Q6. Phone number	not answered
Q7. Please provide any feedback you have on the Draft Reserves Management Strategy and Plan below	not answered
Q8. Island Reserve options	Option 1 on page 15 of the draft plan
Q9. Ōtorohanga Domain options	Option 2 on page 21 of the draft plan
Q10. Do you have a supporting document to upload? You can do so here	not answered
Q11. Any further comments?	not answered



Respondent No: 10

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: Jan 21, 2025 09:20:39 am

Last Seen: Jan 21, 2025 09:20:39 am

IP Address: n/a

Q1. Full name	Mathew Ronaldson
Q2. Organisation (if applicable)	not answered
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Address	not answered
Q5. Do you want to speak to your submission?	No
Q6. Phone number	not answered
Q7. Please provide any feedback you have on the Draft Reserves Management Strategy and Plan below	not answered
Q8. Island Reserve options	Option 2 on page 16 of the draft plan
Q9. Ōtorohanga Domain options	Option 2 on page 21 of the draft plan
Q10. Do you have a supporting document to upload? You can do so here	not answered
Q11. Any further comments?	not answered



Respondent No: 11

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: Jan 21, 2025 10:10:58 am

Last Seen: Jan 21, 2025 10:10:58 am

IP Address: n/a

Q1. Full name	Carly Michelle Hill
Q2. Organisation (if applicable)	[REDACTED]
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Address	[REDACTED]
Q5. Do you want to speak to your submission?	No
Q6. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q7. Please provide any feedback you have on the Draft Reserves Management Strategy and Plan below	
The Kiwi house needs extra parking during the Tourist season, extra parking around the kiwihouse means there are less tourist vehicles lining the roads which is both a people and vehicle use hazard.	
Q8. Island Reserve options	Option 2 on page 16 of the draft plan
Q9. Ōtorohanga Domain options	Option 2 on page 21 of the draft plan
Q10. Do you have a supporting document to upload?	not answered
You can do so here	
Q11. Any further comments?	
not answered	



Respondent No: 12

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: Jan 22, 2025 12:14:39 pm

Last Seen: Jan 22, 2025 12:14:39 pm

IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Full name** Heather Taylor

Q2. **Organisation (if applicable)** not answered

Q3. **Email**

[REDACTED]

Q4. **Address**

[REDACTED]

Q5. **Do you want to speak to your submission?** No

Q6. **Phone number**

[REDACTED]

Q7. **Please provide any feedback you have on the Draft Reserves Management Strategy and Plan below**

Ōtorohanga township lacks a well fenced dog exercise area. Also, the number of loose dogs that come out of their properties when walking throughout the township can make lead walking an issue at times - making a safe off lead area a real priority for dog owners. The fencing in the current area (at the end of Te Ara o Waiwaia) is substandard and wouldn't keep most dogs in. A good example of a really great dog area is Marlborough District Council - <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/dogs-and-other-animals/dog-exercise-off-leash-areas/renwick-dog-park> . A smaller version of something like this would allow dog owners the peace of mind in a secure and safe off lead area. Or at the very least, fence the current area well - and mow it so dogs can actually exercise (grass that is knee high is not conducive allowing a dog to run, play fetch etc.). A well exercised dog is a happy dog - a well exercised dog benefits from better health (physical and mental), better socialisation and usually less behavioural problems. The benefits don't stop with your dog - the act of exercising your dog is great for both your mental and physical health also. I would really like to see Council make a well fenced, safe, secure dog exercise area a priority for the town.

Q8. **Island Reserve options** N/A

Q9. **Ōtorohanga Domain options** N/A

Q10. **Do you have a supporting document to upload?** not answered

You can do so here

Q11. **Any further comments?**

not answered



Respondent No: 13

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: Jan 22, 2025 12:39:27 pm

Last Seen: Jan 22, 2025 12:39:27 pm

IP Address: n/a

Q1. Full name	Joanna Russell
Q2. Organisation (if applicable)	Ōtorohanga Kiwi House Charitable Trust
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Address	[REDACTED]
Q5. Do you want to speak to your submission?	Yes
Q6. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q7. Please provide any feedback you have on the Draft Reserves Management Strategy and Plan below	not answered
Q8. Island Reserve options	N/A
Q9. Ōtorohanga Domain options	Option 2 on page 21 of the draft plan
Q10. Do you have a supporting document to upload?	not answered
You can do so here	

Q11. Any further comments?

Kiwi House concerns about Option 1 for Domain: - Light spill and additional noise from crowds and players closer to the Kiwi House boundary affecting the welfare of the animals and visitor experience. The Kiwi House supports Option 2 because: - currently there are a lack of car parks in the domain for large events causing parking on yellow lined areas, particularly in the evenings. With the increased number of electric cars and poor visibility there is a real concern there may be an accident with young people crossing the road on Alex Telfer and Domain Drive. If additional parking becomes available at the holiday park site, this will be available to all domain users. The Kiwi House would like to utilise the additional land for a carpark and visitor exit from the Kiwi House. This will enable us to better cater for bus bound visitors on a tight itinerary. This will also assist us with meeting our target of 120,000 visitors per annum in the future. Access to the carpark would be from Alex Telfer Drive only so additional traffic will not cause further congestion by the Domain drive - Kākāmutu Rd intersection. This will also reduce the traffic effects on neighbours in Domain Drive and encourage more traffic past the Kiwiana Leisure Park. In order to reduce overland water across the domain the Kiwi House will also use this space to treat and recycle water from the Kiwi House. We will also install bicycle and EV charging stations in this space to support visitors to the area to park and ride around Ōtorohanga and potentially to Waitomo if planning allows.



Respondent No: 14

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: Jan 23, 2025 07:04:31 am

Last Seen: Jan 23, 2025 07:04:31 am

IP Address: n/a

Q1. Full name	Elvisa van der Leden
Q2. Organisation (if applicable)	Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Incorporated
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Address	not answered
Q5. Do you want to speak to your submission?	Yes
Q6. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q7. Please provide any feedback you have on the Draft Reserves Management Strategy and Plan below	See Written Submission
Q8. Island Reserve options	N/A
Q9. Ōtorohanga Domain options	N/A
Q10. Do you have a supporting document to upload? You can do so here	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Q11. Any further comments?	Emailed to Reception 22 January 2025

22 January 2025

Ōtorohanga District Council
17 Maniapoto St
Otorohanga 3900

FEEDBACK ON THE DRAFT ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT RESERVES STRATEGY AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Introduction

1. The Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society Inc. of New Zealand (Forest & Bird) is Aotearoa New Zealand's leading independent conservation organisation. Forest & Bird has played an important role in protecting and preserving New Zealand's environment and native species for a century.

Forest & Bird is independently funded by private subscription, donations, and bequests.

2. Forest & Bird has for many years had a strong interest and involvement in protecting and restoring nature on land, in freshwater and in the ocean, throughout the country including throughout the Waikato region. Our Forest & Bird strategic objectives are as follows:
 - **Climate Centred:** Ensuring our country does everything we can to keep the climate safe for all life on Earth. The impact of climate change will be at the centre of everything we do.
 - **Economy that Supports Nature:** A Community that recognises that the long-term economy is dependent on a healthy environment for nature's intrinsic and lifegiving values.
 - **Vibrant Landscapes:** Stable, healthy ecosystems full of native animals and plants.
 - **Energised Water, Rivers and Wetlands:** Rivers, streams and freshwater that run clean, healthy and are teeming with life.
 - **Oceans Alive:** Protected and preserved marine life and ecosystems.

3. Forest & Bird have an active Waikato volunteer branch which works on reserves in and around the Waikato region - part of a network of 45 volunteer led branches nationally, whose multigenerational members and supporters play an important and active role in protecting and restoring the region's native species and habitats in their respective districts.
4. Within Forest & Bird there is a wealth of knowledge and expertise on protecting and restoring Aotearoa New Zealand's native ecosystems and species. Forest & Bird also have regional Kiwi Conservation Clubs for tamariki, and Youth branches for rangatahi across the country.
4. Forest & Bird is grateful for the opportunity to provide feedback on Ōtorohanga District Council's (ODC) Reserves Strategy and Management Plan. Forest & Bird acknowledges the work that staff are doing to improve the district and its reserves through this process.

General/overall comments

5. Forest & Bird understands that the Ōtorohanga Reserves Strategy and Management Plan covers a network of 9 reserves and open spaces within the district. These are in addition to a series of other open space assets that the council owns.
6. Forest & Bird would like to see the ODC continue focus on restoration of natural values to improve biodiversity, habitat connections, water quality and reduce carbon emissions when reviewing and updating the plan. This is in alignment with the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity principle (3)(a) 'prioritise the mauri, intrinsic value and wellbeing of indigenous biodiversity' and (e) 'recognise the role of people and communities (including landowners) as stewards of indigenous biodiversity'.
7. Forest & Bird encourage the vision of "restoring healthy ecosystems for the benefit of nature and people" including a focus on incorporating response to climate change. We suggest the biggest wins to carbon reduction in parks and reserves will be through habitat restoration.
8. Forest & Bird believe that the Draft Reserve Strategy and Management Plan is an excellent opportunity to create new conservation and biodiversity objectives and policies to enhance local biodiversity and help ODC contribute towards New Zealand's requirement to achieve carbon zero status by 2050 or sooner (and a reduction in methane emissions by 2030).

9. Forest & Bird recognizes and commends that the Draft Reserves Strategy and Management Plan has included a series of initiatives within the plan to create connection between urban and natural spaces, build habitat for native species, educate users of certain parks and reserves about the surrounding natural environment and uses reference to a bottom line objective of a “town-wide blue green network which provides direction for biodiversity and water quality outcomes throughout Ōtorohanga”. This reference is clear and provides momentum for further similar initiatives moving forward for the district.

Significant Natural Areas

9. Forest & Bird sees the Draft of the Reserve Strategy and Management Plan as an opportunity for ODC to identify and plan for additional significant natural areas (SNAs) in its reserves by using the criteria set out in NPS-IB Appendix 1¹. The NPS-IB states that an area of Crown-owned land may automatically qualify as a Significant Natural Area (SNA) without assessment if it is a scientific, scenic or nature reserve under the Reserves Act 1977, a sanctuary area, ecological area, or wildlife management area under the Conservation Act 1987, or an isolated part of a national park (3.8 (8)(c)(iv)).

10. Previously established activities on SNAs must have their adverse effects managed. 3.15(2) states:

(2) Local authorities must include objectives, policies, and methods in their policy statements and plans to enable specified established activities, or specified types of established activities, to continue where the effects of the activity on an SNA (including cumulative effects):

(a) are no greater in intensity, scale, or character over time than at the commencement date; and

(b) do not result in the loss of extent, or degradation of ecological integrity, of an SNA.

11. Two new objectives could be added to Reserves Management Plan in regards to identifying and maintaining SNA's in ODC parks as reserves, for example:

- To identify all Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) in parks and reserves owned and/or managed by Council within the first X years of plan adoption.
- Ensure existing established activities on SNAs in parks and reserves do not increase in intensity, scale or character, and do not result in a loss of extent, or degradation of ecological integrity.

12. The NPS-IB (3.16(3)) requires councils to make or change its plans to be consistent with 3.16, managing affects on indigenous biodiversity outside SNAs by applying the effects management hierarchy in the NPS-IB (set out in 1.6).
13. The NPS-IB states that local authorities must include objectives, policies, and methods in their policy statements and plans to promote the restoration of indigenous biodiversity, including through reconstruction of areas (3.21(1)).
14. Although the NPS-IB gives local authorities eight years from commencement of the NPS-IB to publicly notify any changes to their policy statements and plans that are necessary to give effect to the NPS, we believe the Draft Reserve Strategy and Plan is a perfect opportunity for ODC to be proactive to at least fulfil the NPS requirements for council owned parks and reserves, to make the work easier in the long-run across the district.

Livestock grazing and pest control

15. Forest & Bird strongly advise phasing out the allowance for grazing in any and all parks and reserves to enhance biodiversity values and reduce carbon emissions.
16. Forest & Bird encourage OCD to put emphasis or priority on pest animal control within any new or existing parks and reserves. This would be in line with the national direction to have New Zealand predator-free by 2050, and also compliments progress being made at local levels to create predator-free communities.
17. Forest & Bird acknowledges and endorses the objective policies of pest control and pest management within the plan but would like to see stronger direction on how this is to be achieved.

Ecology, biodiversity and natural values

17. Where possible, Forest & Bird would like to see more creation of ecological corridors connecting parks and reserves within districts. These can be routed through public/council land as much as possible and can be indicative through private land to show where there is a natural corridor linking the areas. Such corridors allow the spread and migration of native/indigenous species, as well as the re-colonisation of environments that have been disturbed. They are critical

for the maintenance of ecological processes including allowing for the movement of species and the continuation of viable populations.

18. Forest & Bird recognises that ODC has made substantial effort in this strategy and plan to develop strong ecological corridors for biodiversity to utilize and establish within.

18. Forest & Bird would like to see parks and reserves planted exclusively with native trees, shrubs and other plants, rather than exotic species. These provide important habitat and food sources for native animals, as well as enhancing landscape, aesthetic value and mana. This aligns with NPS-IB 3.22(4) 'Local authorities must promote the increase of indigenous vegetation cover in their regions and districts through objectives, policies, and methods in their policy statements and plans'.

19. Forest & Bird supports the undergrowth planting of native shrubs and trees beneath the established non-native trees within The Domain.

19. Forest & Bird recommend local eco-sourcing native plants where possible so that their procurement is climate friendly (less logistical reliance) and to ensure local genetic diversity is conserved and repopulated in the appropriate environments. We endorse the inclusion of the eco-sourcing policy within the management plan. We recommend sourcing local where possible.

20. Close to 80% of New Zealand's lizard species are either threatened or endangered. Forest & Bird would encourage ODC to make their parks and reserves 'lizard friendly' by providing habitats for them such as tussocks, grasses and plants with branches that tangle up, accompanied with piles of loosely-stacked rocks and stones. Berry or nectar producing plant species (especially native divaricating shrubs) are a great food source for them also. 'Lizard gardens' could be established in parks and reserves as habitat, but also as an educational and advocacy tool.

Climate change/Carbon neutrality

23. The Zero Carbon Act commits New Zealand to achieving zero carbon by 2050 or sooner, whilst also requiring methane to fall 10% by 2030 and between 24 and 47% by mid-century.
24. Forest & Bird suggest that ODC invests in low maintenance parks and reserves, such as reducing grassed area which need to be mowed regularly, as this would reduce vehicle trips by parks maintenance staff and contractors, reducing carbon output.
25. As well as reducing maintenance, mown grass can require irrigation over warmer months, and is often not a hospitable place for wildlife. Many large expanses of grassland, especially public parks and cultivated fields, are effectively green deserts with very limited biodiversity.
26. Forest & Bird appreciates that ODC recognise the importance of reserves as part of a compact, liveable town and include direction to manage them accordingly. Reserves and other green/blue spaces provide proven health and well-being benefits for nearby residents and are complementary to high density residential areas. ODC has recognized and planned for nature to be accessible and woven into residential and urban spaces for the benefit of residents, climate and nature alike. The zero carbon modes of transport infrastructure pathways (walking and cycling) is also recognized.
27. By creating and maintaining biodiverse, native vegetated parks and reserves, these can become natural habitat carbon sinks, and useful carbon sequestrators for the district.

Freshwater

28. Wetlands provide ecosystem services and can be critically important carbon sinks (especially in the case of peat swamps). Forest & Bird would like to see all wetlands, regardless of their current condition and priority status, rewetted and/or restored across the parks and reserves network as a matter of priority.
29. Forest & Bird endorses and commends the concept design of Huipūtea Reserve including the construction of wetland habitat. We encourage more wetland construction and restoration initiatives around the district to encourage similar ecological corridors for wetland species to distribute to. This type of planning

can avoid overpopulation and resource competition of wetland birds within a small area.

29. Forest & Bird appreciate and support the ODC focus on freshwater quality in the reserves management plan, to comply with responsibilities under the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management, and to enhance ecology, biodiversity and natural values.

30. Forest & Bird support native riparian planting along all waterbodies and waterways, whether ephemeral or with constant flow. This recognises the value of these features and the benefit that vegetation adds to water quality in the region. Native vegetation in riparian areas provide filtering and removing of pollutants and sediment from water, minimising erosion, reducing flood peaks, and providing riparian habitat for aquatic species, among other benefits.

Nature Based Solutions

31. Nature Based Solutions (NBS) are approaches that utilise the inherent power of nature to address various environmental challenges while providing co-benefits to human societies. As the world faces complex environmental problems such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and natural resource depletion, nature-based solutions offer a promising avenue for sustainable and holistic solutions.

32. NBS play a crucial role in mitigating climate change by absorbing and storing carbon dioxide. Forests, wetlands, and other natural ecosystems act as carbon sinks, sequestering large amounts of carbon and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Restoring and conserving indigenous forests, implementing indigenous afforestation and reforestation projects, and protecting coastal ecosystems like estuaries all contribute to carbon sequestration, helping to stabilise the climate.

33. NBS support the preservation and restoration of biodiversity. Healthy ecosystems provide habitats for a wide range of species, ensuring their survival and promoting genetic diversity. Preserving biodiversity is crucial for the functioning of ecosystems, as it contributes to pollination, seed dispersal, and nutrient cycling. By conserving and restoring natural habitats, NBS help

safeguard numerous plant and animal species, protecting the delicate interdependence of ecosystems.

34. NBS in urbanised/township areas improve resilience and liveability by creating green spaces, enhancing air quality and mitigating urban noise. Urban forests, parks, green roofs, and vertical gardens enhance biodiversity, absorb pollutants, and provide cooling/shading effects, making cities more sustainable and enjoyable for residents. NBS also contribute to mental and physical well-being, offering recreational spaces and connecting people with nature.

Playgrounds

35. Forest & Bird encourage the Council to consider 'nature-based play' as the first consideration when building or upgrading playgrounds. This consists of elements and textures from the environment such as tree logs, tree stumps, boulders, native plants and drainage paths among others, instead of traditional steel playground structures.

Conclusion

36. Forest & Bird enthusiastically endorses the Blue-Green Network concept in the strategy and incorporated throughout the plan. This is an ambitious yet practical and inspirational objective that Forest & Bird would like to see more councils working towards and implementing within strategies and plans.
37. Forest & Bird supports the Landscape and Ecology Objectives within the Plan. While these objectives provide a clear pathway for reserves and open spaces to work towards positive outcomes for biodiversity, climate and freshwater, Forest & Bird encourage the council to identify other opportunities within council business and services to incorporate and overlap with these objectives.
38. While there are significant efforts to improve outcomes for indigenous biodiversity, climate and freshwater, Forest & Bird always encourage councils to work consistently towards these outcomes in all aspects of planning and community engagement.
39. Forest and Bird encourage councils to apply a Nature Based Solutions lens to all areas of council and hope that this lens becomes a natural part of planning and workplace culture. We appreciate that there are significant efforts within the strategy and plan that align with NBS initiatives.
40. Forest & Bird also recognize and support the positive community and environmental benefits and outcomes outlined in the strategy for walking and

cycling (zero carbon transport modes) connectivity between reserves and open spaces.

41. Forest & Bird supports and celebrates the council's partnership with mana whenua.
42. ODC have used the opportunity to use the updating of the Reserves Strategy and Plan to secure substantial wins for biodiversity, the environment, zero carbon/climate change, amenity, mana and the community. Forest & Bird hope this feedback has been helpful, validating, and provided additional considerations for officers. I would be happy to discuss any of the submission matters further, should you wish to do so.

Ngā mihi nui,

Elvisa van der Leden

Regional Conservation Manager (RCM) – Waikato / Taranaki

Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Incorporated.

e.vanderleden@forestandbird.org.nz



Respondent No: 15

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: Jan 23, 2025 11:23:50 am

Last Seen: Jan 23, 2025 11:23:50 am

IP Address: n/a

Q1. Full name	Murray Loewenthal
Q2. Organisation (if applicable)	na
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Address	[REDACTED]
Q5. Do you want to speak to your submission?	No
Q6. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q7. Please provide any feedback you have on the Draft Reserves Management Strategy and Plan below	<p>This is relative to the plans for the caravan park at the Domain. My understanding is that there are plans to develop this as an additional football pitch. In my opinion, based on 60 years of living close to the Domain this would be a waste of money and it would be much better to make this land available to the Otorohanga KiwiHouse Trust to allow them to expand and develop. The Trust is vital to the economy of the town and I believe not doing this would be a very negative use of the land.</p>
Q8. Island Reserve options	not answered
Q9. Ōtorohanga Domain options	Option 2 on page 21 of the draft plan
Q10. Do you have a supporting document to upload? You can do so here	not answered
Q11. Any further comments?	not answered



Respondent No: 16

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: Jan 29, 2025 13:21:19 pm

Last Seen: Jan 29, 2025 13:21:19 pm

IP Address: n/a

Q1. Full name	David Charles Bailey
Q2. Organisation (if applicable)	Otorohanga Domain Sports Association
Q3. Email	[REDACTED]
Q4. Address	[REDACTED]
Q5. Do you want to speak to your submission?	Yes
Q6. Phone number	[REDACTED]
Q7. Please provide any feedback you have on the Draft Reserves Management Strategy and Plan below	not answered
Q8. Island Reserve options	N/A
Q9. Ōtorohanga Domain options	Option 1 on page 20 of the draft plan
Q10. Do you have a supporting document to upload? You can do so here	https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/ehq-production-australia/d82ca0ec1cb04cf5daca88556e73bbf6bcf5cd58/original/1738117250/df886ba5afd37bdadb14c51457678743_Oto_Domain_Submission.pdf?1738117250
Q11. Any further comments?	not answered

Otorohanga District Council
sahndra@otodc.govt.nz

re: **Reserve Management Strategy & Plans**

We enclose herewith submission regarding the Reserve Management Strategy. I write in my capacity as President of the Otorohanga Domain Sports Association and President of the Otorohanga Football Club.

The members of the Domain Sports Association have voted to support Option 1 for the Otorohanga Domain Concept Design.

The Domain has been used for over 100 years by Otorohanga Cricket and since 1962 by Otorohanga Football.

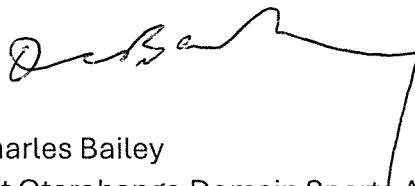
Otorohanga Football are constrained by only having 1 field and a small training area.

By gaining the extra land that was previously the caravan park, this would enable them to have two full sized fields once the lights and some trees were moved and the cricket nets relocated to the Otorohanga College area.

In addition, it will enable four fields for Summer Soccer.

This will have no impact on the cricket who will be able to continue enjoy the facilities.

There is the possibility that the current facilities on the caravan park could also be used as changing sheds, and this can be discussed.



David Charles Bailey
President Otorohanga Domain Sports Assn.
President Otorohanga Football Club.
29 January 2025

CLOSING FORMALITIES

CLOSING PRAYER/REFLECTION/WORDS OF WISDOM | KARAKIA/HURITAO/WHAKATAUKĪ

The Chairperson will invite a member to provide the closing words and/or karakia.

MEETING CLOSURE | KATINGA O TE HUI

The Chairperson will declare the meeting closed.