

Haven Holes – Esplanade Reserve Management Plan



May 2006



A partnership between
Tangata Whenua,
Department of Conservation
and Nelson City Council

1. PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

- 1.1. A management plan is a document which sets out the objectives and policies for managing a reserve. It is the reference document to enable the consistent management and development of the reserve and forms the basis for future planning.
- 1.2. This management plan was prepared as a condition of the 2003 coastal permit (resource consent) for the Haven Holes reclamation. Due to outstanding land ownership and management issues this management plan does not have the status of a reserve management plan prepared under the Reserves Act 1977.



2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The area was created by deposition of dredging material obtained from the Nelson Marina. It was envisaged that the dredging material would consolidate to 9000m². However the actual area is 22,520m². The Vegetation Plan (Appendix B) gives an overview of the reserve.
- 2.2. While initially water logged, the land has consolidated and now forms a low contoured area from Queen Elizabeth II Drive (State Highway 6) into Nelson Haven. Haven Holes is significant in that most of the naturally occurring gently contoured coastline of the haven has been lost through human modifications such as reclamation and road construction. The soft contours of the Haven Holes Reserve make it an attractive roosting place for seabirds at high tide.
- 2.3. Increasingly, bird populations (including oyster catchers, pied stilts, herons, godwits and seagulls) are using the margin as a high tide roost. There is also potential for birds to nest on the reserve.

3. CONDITIONS OF COASTAL PERMIT

- 3.1. In 2003 Nelson City Council was granted a retrospective coastal permit for the reclamation. The principal conditions of the resource consent are:
- That the land is set aside as an esplanade reserve
 - That a management plan is prepared
 - That the applicant undertake all management works until either an administering body is appointed or the reserve is vested in an administering body
 - That the land is managed with the prime objective of developing and maintaining a habitat for coastal and marine birds



4. STATUTORY FRAMEWORK AND CURRENT STATUS

- 4.1. The land (Lot 1 DP 343254) is owned by the Crown and administered by the Minister of Conservation under the Foreshore and Seabed Re-vesting Act 1991. The land is classified as an Esplanade Reserve (Local Purpose).
- 4.2. The reserve is currently zoned “Coastal Marine Area” in the Nelson Resource Management Plan.
- 4.3. The ownership of the land is subject to Iwi claims on the seabed. Should the claim rule in favour of Iwi, it is likely to be vested in the Whakatu Marae and a joint management structure established with Council and the Department of Conservation.
- 4.4. This management plan is designed to ensure that active management is carried out in accordance with the conditions of the coastal permit and participation of the interested and affected parties.
- 4.5. This management plan has been developed and finalised by a committee comprising an iwi representative (Chris Hemi appointed by the Nelson Iwi Resource Management Committee) a Council representative (Councillor Ian Barker) and a Department of Conservation representative (Katherine Hughes from the Nelson Marlborough Conservancy Office).

5. CULTURAL CONTEXT

- 5.1. This area has significance for iwi. The shoreline and estuary have a long history of occupation and usage both before European settlement and afterwards. Some of the main cultural values of this area are:
- Traditional gathering (mahingakai) values
 - Provision of a habitat for taonga species
 - Spiritual significance
- 5.2. This management plan does not pre-empt any future ownership and management options, arising from a claims settlement. Iwi have indicated that they want the area to be vested with the Whakatu Marae Committee Inc.
- 5.3. As the area has a windy exposed environment that experiences salt sprays, the plantings must be confined to hardy coastal species. There is scope for some coastal species such as harakeke (swamp flax) to be used for traditional purposes.
- 5.4. An information board on the Queen Elizabeth II Drive rest area immediately to the south west of the reserve will incorporate information on:
- The history and significance of the haven provided by iwi;
 - The reserve's ecology;
 - Impacts of human activities on wildlife;
 - Future iwi involvement.
- 5.5. "Haven Holes" is an interim name for the reserve. It is envisaged that when the outstanding management and ownership issues are resolved the reserve will be renamed with a name that better reflects the culture and history of the haven.



PART 2:

STRATEGIC VISION, AIMS, ISSUES, OBJECTIVES, POLICIES AND PRIORITIES

This part of the Management Plan has a structured hierarchy from the overarching vision and aims to the identification of issues and the specific objectives and policies that provide guidance as to how the reserve is to be managed. The strategic vision provides the overarching purpose of the management plan, the aims identify the fundamental principles for managing the reserve and objectives and policies provide the detailed objectives and actions to be undertaken to address the issues and achieve the strategic vision.



STRATEGIC VISION

Haven Holes Reserve is managed as a habitat for coastal and marine birds.

AIMS

Natural Values

Natural Values of the reserve (wildlife, vegetation, habitat, landform) are actively protected and enhanced.

Human Use

Human activity on the reserve is minimised.

Issues	Objectives	Policies	Priority
<p>1. Legal and Statutory</p> <p>The land is currently vested with the Crown. However, Iwi have claimed seabed throughout New Zealand. This wider claim needs to be resolved before the final status and vesting of the reserve is determined.</p>	<p>To resolve status and ownership issues to enable a Statutory Reserve Management Plan to be completed</p>	<p>1.1 Undertake necessary actions once seabed claims resolved.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>
<p>2. Enhance the habitat for birdlife and minimise adverse effects</p> <p>The primary objective of the reserve is to provide a habitat for marine and sea birds. The value of the reserve as a bird habitat could be compromised by the presence of predators, dogs, rubbish and pollution</p>	<p>Minimise adverse effects on birdlife through a range of mitigation and control activities</p>	<p>4.1 Ban dogs from accessing the reserve under the Dog Control Bylaw</p> <p>4.2 Undertake predator control targeting cats, mustelids and rats annually from September to January.</p> <p>4.3 Collect rubbish from the reserve at least once every three months.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>3. Natural Character</p> <p>The land is recently reclaimed, has a harsh environment and has poor soil structure. The reserve has a high profile at the entrance to the city but the stormwater outlet is currently an unattractive feature. The reserve will become infested with weeds if it is not actively revegetated and maintained.</p>	<p>Integrate the reserve into a coastal marine area with high natural character by planting a sequence of native plants from intertidal herbfield to a low coastal forest.</p>	<p>3.1 Progressively vegetate the site with native plants using the Planting Schedule (Appendix A) and Vegetation Plan (Appendix B).</p> <p>3.2 Maintain the plantings through weeding and spot spraying</p>	<p>Short Term</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

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<p>4. Minimise Human Impacts</p> <p>The presence of humans on the reserve will compromise its value as a bird habitat.</p>	<p>Minimise human impacts on the reserve</p>	<p>4.1 Install interpretive signage explaining the reserve's purpose and to discourage public access</p> <p>4.2 Confine intrusive maintenance work (eg scrub bar use) to two hours either side of low tide</p> <p>4.3 Allow traditional cultural harvest</p>	<p>Short Term</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>5. Interpretation</p> <p>The reserve is located at a prominent site bordering State Highway 6 at the gateway to Nelson City. The adjacent carpark and rest area is well used by visitors and locals.</p>	<p>Provide information on the reserve</p>	<p>5.1 Install an interpretive panel on the adjacent QE2 Drive Rest Area containing information on the Maori and Settler history of Nelson Haven, the history of the reserve, its ecology, threats and future management</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>
<p>6. Community Involvement</p> <p>Conservation groups are interested in being involved with the development and management of the reserve.</p>	<p>Engage the community in the enhancement of the reserve</p>	<p>6.1 Provide the opportunity for community involvement in the management of the reserve through activities such as hide construction, predator control and plantings and the renaming of the reserve.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

APPENDIX A: Native Plants and their relative proportions, to be used for planting at Haven Holes, listed by Vegetation Type

All plant stock is to be sourced from local, wild populations.

LEGEND

- 0** = species will colonise by themselves without need for planting
- 1** = main planting species
- 2** = secondary planting species
- 3** = understorey planting species once open canopy is established
- 4** = needs well-drained sites
- 5** = roadside
- 6** = substrate not suitable unless shell-banks created
- 7** = around mouth of stormwater outfall
- *** = nationally threatened species

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	GROWTH FORM	VEGETATION TYPE (in zonation sequence from Haven Estuary to QEII Drive)							
			Intertidal Herbfeld	Rushland	Coastal Salt Turf	Tussockland	Estuarine Shrubland (above mean high tide)	Coastal Shrubland (above extreme high tide)	Coastal Short-statured Forest	Stormwater Flaxland
<i>Sarcocornia quinqueflora</i>	Glasswort	succulent herb	0							2
<i>Suaeda novae-zelandiae</i>	sea blite	succulent herb	0		0					2
<i>Juncus kraussii</i> ssp. <i>australiensis</i>	sea rush	tussock rush		1						
<i>Schoenoplectus pungens</i>	three square	short swarding sedge	1	2						
<i>Apodasmia (Leptocarpus) similis</i>	Oioi	restiad rush		2,7						
<i>Carex litorosa</i> *	delta sedge	short tussock sedge		2,7						
<i>Samolus repens</i>	sea primrose	mat herb			1,6	3				
<i>Centella uniflora</i>	Centella	mat herb				3	3		3	
<i>Lobelia anceps</i>	shore lobelia	herb			2	3	3			
<i>Selliera radicans</i>	Remuremu	mat herb			1,6	3	3			
<i>Leptinella dioica</i>	coastal button	mat herb			1,6	3	3			
<i>Apium prostratum</i>	sea celery	herb			1,6	1	3			
<i>Austrostipa stipoides</i>	estuary tussock	tussock grass			2	1	2			
<i>Isolepis nodosa</i>	knot sedge	short tussock sedge			2	1	2	2	3	
<i>Tetragonia tetragonioides</i> *	native spinach	creeper				2				
<i>Tetragonia trigyna</i>	native spinach	scrambler					2	2	3	
<i>Atriplex cinerea</i> *	grey salt bush	sub-shrub				2	2			
<i>Plagianthus divaricatus</i>	marsh ribbonwood	shrub					1	1		1
<i>Olearia solandri</i>	coastal shrub daisy	shrub					2	1		

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			Intertidal Herbfield	Rushland	Coastal Salt Turf	Tussockland	Estuarine Shrubland (above mean high tide)	Coastal Shrubland (above extreme high tide)	Coastal Short-statured Forest	Stormwater Flaxland
Ozothamnus leptophyllus	Tauhinu	shrub						1		
Discaria toumatou var. "prostrate"*	prostrate matagouri	prostrate shrub						6		
Melicytus "Waipapa"	leafy porcupine shrub	low shrub								
Melicytus crassifolius*	coastal porcupine shrub	low shrub						2		
Muehlenbeckia complexa	scrambling pōhuehue	scrambling vine						1		
Poa aff. cita	coastal silver tussock	swarding grass						2	3	
Carex flagellifera	bootstrap sedge	short tussock sedge						2	3	
Phormium cookianum	wharariki, coastal flax	tall tussock						1	3	1
Coprosma propinqua	Mikimiki	shrub						1	3	
Leptospermum scoparium	Mānuka	small tree							1	
Cyperus ustulatus	ūpoko tāngata	tussock sedge						2		2
Cortaderia richardii	Toetoe	tall tussock grass						1		1
Kunzea ericoides	Kānuka	small tree						2	1,4	
Myoporum laetum	Ngaio	small tree							1	
Olearia paniculata	Akiraho	small tree								
Dodonaea viscosa	Akeake	small tree							1,4	
Coprosma repens	Taupata	small tree							2,4	
Pittosporum tenuifolium	Kōhūhū	small tree							2	
Carex forsteri	coastal sedge	tussock sedge							3	

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<i>Poa anceps</i>	coastal poa	short swarding grass							3	
<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	meadow ricegrass	short swarding grass							3	
<i>Libertia ixioides</i>	Mikoikoi	short tussock							3	
<i>Cordyline australis</i>	cabbage tree	tree							1	2
<i>Phormium tenax</i>	harakeke, swamp flax	tall tussock							1,5	1
<i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i>	lake clubrush	tall swarding sedge								2

Appendix B: Vegetation Plan: not to scale

