

9. PURCHASE OF ESPLANADE RESERVE – KNIGHTS STREAM



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Corporate Plan Output: New Assets (Waterways and Wetlands) 9.3.48	

The purpose of this report is to consider the purchase of an esplanade reserve along the bank of Knights Stream in order to protect and enhance it.

BACKGROUND

Knights Stream is an upper tributary of the Halswell River and in this locality follows its natural path entrenched within the adjacent banks and highlighted in the wider flat rural landscape by large trees growing along its banks. Downstream of Marshs Road there is a continual base flow provided by a stock water race and natural springs in the stream bed. This waterway has significance to the Tangata Whenua and is part of an historical route used when travelling by boat from the Avon/Heathcote Estuary to Lake Ellesmere.

The City Plan identifies the proposed walkway alongside Knights Stream while the Waterways and Wetland Natural Asset Management Strategy identifies this waterway as providing an important green corridor that will achieve the following:

- Allow the development of a walkway linking the Heathcote River to Knights Stream.
- Form an important landscape feature in an otherwise flat featureless landscape.
- Highlight the historical route used by the Tangata Whenua when travelling by boat from the Avon/Heathcote Estuary to Lake Ellesmere.
- Form part of a wide green corridor that will provide habitat for birds when they move down from the Port Hills to the plain during the winter months.
- Provide a buffer between the waterway and adjacent land use resulting in improved water quality and habitat.
- Provide the minimum area necessary for a viable ecosystem of plants and animals.
- Provide a sheltering effect for surrounding urban areas that will be located in an exposed open plains area.
- Provide space for the ponds and wetlands required for the attenuation of the adverse effects of urban run off on water quality and quantity.

PROPERTY DETAILS

The property is located on the western side of Whincops Road between the intersecting roadways of Quaifes Road to the north and Downies Road to the south. Knights Stream forms the western boundary to the property, as depicted on the [attached plan S3178](#). Surrounding developments comprise vacant and improved lifestyle holdings with this area undertaking intensive subdivision over recent years and now regarded as a most saleable lifestyle location. In respect of amenities the property is well situated with the Halswell borough providing a good array of shopping facilities, primary schools, recreational areas etc.

The area of land to be acquired comprises a strip immediately adjoining the stream bank of varying width from 28.5 metres on the southern boundary to 15.15 metres on the northern boundary. A total area of 4,304m² is to be acquired and it should be noted that the land adjoins 1.1 hectares of reserve recently acquired on the western bank of the stream from the adjoining property. The cover currently comprises established pasture which is being farmed as one lifestyle block.

ZONING

The property is zoned Rural 2 under the Operative Transitional District Plan of the former Papanui County Council and is zoned Rural 2 under the proposed City Plan.

PROPERTY SETTLEMENT

The property was valued for the Council by Ford Baker, registered public valuers, and agreement has been reached with the owners, the details of which are included in the public excluded section of this report. An agreement has been entered into to be confirmed by 31 August 2000 to acquire the area concerned.

SOURCE OF FUNDS

The purchase will be funded from the Water Services Unit Waterway and Enhancement Fund for which sufficient funds are held to acquire the area this financial year.

The above report was before the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board at its meeting on 2 August 2000. The Board supported the proposal to purchase the esplanade reserve.

Recommendation: That Section 1 on plan S3178 containing approximately 4,304m² being part of the land comprised and described in Certificate of Title 63/181 be acquired by the Council as an esplanade reserve, subject to the terms and conditions outlined in the public excluded section of this report.