

## 6. STANBURY RESERVE MAINTENANCE

<b>General Manager responsible:</b>	Jane Parfitt, General Manager City Environment
<b>Officer responsible:</b>	Chris Hopman, Works & Services Manager
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### PURPOSE OF REPORT:

1. The purpose of this report to inform the Board of the current situation regarding Stanbury Reserve in Wainui and to seek direction from the Board for the future maintenance of this Reserve.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

2. Board member Mr. Ryder was approached through email by the Chairperson of the Wainui Residents Association with a request to include a large part of Stanbury Reserve in the mowing schedule of the Reserves Maintenance Contract.

Currently only a very small part, approximately 1500m<sup>2</sup>, containing the public toilet, is maintained under the Reserves Contract, and the rest of the 2 ha. reserve is looked after by the local Wainui Residents Association.

After a request by the Association in December 2003 it was agreed that the Council would, after removal of the stock fence, mow the grassed area adjacent to the road. This would occur from 10 December to the end of January of each year to give the general public as well as visitors more space for picnicing and recreation. After this date the Association would reinstate the stock fence to allow for grazing for the rest of the year.

This arrangement was working well, especially because the remainder of the year sees little use of the area because of few visitors..

During the 2004/2005 financial year the Wainui Residents Association was given \$10,000 to have a Reserves Management plan prepared for the Reserve. Part of this money was left in the budget and subsequently used to carry out some planting. Unfortunately this occurred without any consultation with Works & Services staff in regards to future maintenance of the reserve . This resulted in small pockets being planted in various locations in the grassed area without being fenced to keep grazing stock at bay.

The various options available are:

- Option 1: Carry on with the current situation of mowing from 10 December to 31 January and graze the area the rest of the year.
- Option 2: Request the Wainui Residents Association to fence the planted areas, keep the plantings maintained and honour the agreement made in 2003/2004.
- Option 3: Council will continue maintaining the grassed area and include the planted area in the Reserves Maintenance Contract. The Wainui Residents Association will still maintain the rest of the Reserve.
- Option 4: Council will take over the total maintenance of the entire Reserve.

The preferred option would be option 2, because of the agreement made with the Association, and the financial consequences of the other options. Option 4 would not be appropriate considering all the work that the Wainui Residents Association has contributed to the reserve over many years

### **FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

3. If options 1 or 2 are adopted, there will be no financial consequences. The annual cost for option 3 is \$ 2,000 which would need to be included in the LTCCP and budget. Option 4 would have an approximate cost of \$ 6,000 per annum and would also need to be included in the LTCCP and budget.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board:

Adopt Option 2 to request the Wainui Residents Association to fence the planted areas, keep the plantings maintained and honour the agreement made in 2003/2004.

### **ASSESSMENT OF OPTIONS:**

While the majority of properties in the Wainui area are not occupied permanently, the need for access to the full area of the Stanbury Reserve is relatively low all year round.

This means in general terms that reserves in this and similar areas are of a relatively low grade and maintained to a relatively low standard. There is a risk that the Council will set a precedent if it adopts options 3 or 4. At present the management and maintenance of local reserves through Residents Associations or Management Committees is consistent with Council policy for outlying or semi remote areas.