

## 9. ISAAC CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Strategy and Planning, DDI 941-8281
Officer responsible:	City Plan Team Leader
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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to recommend that the Council approve the Isaac Conservation Park Management Plan with a proviso that a Bird Hazard Management Plan is completed by December 2009 and that it is consistent with the Christchurch City Council Biodiversity Strategy and the Wildlife Act 1953.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Council recently provided for mineral extraction activities within the Isaac Conservation Area (ICP/Q) as part of Variation 93. The Variation provided for the expansion and amendment of the existing Open Space 3D zone through the creation of a Conservation Park on the lands owned by the Isaac Wildlife Trust and the expansion of the Clearwater Resort. The Variation also extended quarrying on land adjacent to the existing Rural Quarry zone at Peacock Springs. The park encompasses approximately 1200ha of land.
3. The requirement for a management plan for the park can be found in Volume 3: Part 6 Open Space Zones: Critical standards, clause 2.4.19 Management Plan – Open Space 3D. The purpose of the management plan is to provide a management tool to manage the competing uses and range of activities within the park including the staged development of mineral extraction and the rehabilitation of the land. Critical Standard 2.4.19 identifies over 20 issues that should be addressed in the management plan (see **attached**).
4. Volume 3: Part 6 Open Space Zones, reasons for the rule, clause 4.31, explains that:

*Any application to extend mineral extraction activity beyond the boundaries of the former Rural Quarry Zone within the Isaac Conservation Park will therefore trigger the requirement to develop a comprehensive management plan “(sic).*
5. However, this requirement can be avoided by applying for a resource consent. There is currently a resource consent being processed, as a non-complying activity, for mineral extraction in the Isaac Conservation Park (Open Space 3D) prior to a management plan having been approved by the Council.
6. As required by Critical Standard 2.4.19, mineral extraction shall be a non complying activity unless a management plan for the Isaac Conservation Park (ICP) has been approved by the Council. Once the management plan is in place any mineral extraction which results in an area of excavation exceeding 2ha will be a restricted discretionary activity, with the Council's discretion limited to:
  - (a) the visual impacts of the mineral extraction and any associated activities
  - (b) methods of screening the activity from public places and adjacent properties
  - (c) methods to be employed to prevent dust nuisance
  - (d) the volume and area extent of the excavation when completed
  - (e) the length of time the area is to be left unsoiled and/or unvegetated
  - (f) the rehabilitation methods proposed including the timeframe for these
  - (g) traffic effects associated with heavy vehicles
  - (h) the provisions of any approved Isaac Conservation Park Management Plan.

7. Quarrying activities will always be subject to the resource consent process. The detail required specifically by the management plan, which would not otherwise be addressed through the resource consent process, is the higher expectation of land rehabilitation in the Open Space 3D zone after mineral extraction has completed. The minimum requirement through the resource consent is that the land will be rehabilitated to a flat to gently undulating landform, not rehabilitated back to the original natural ground level through filling. As a minimum the land will be covered with silt and topsoil and grassed. However the ICP management plan has an objective of establishing a Conservation Park over the next 50 years and will include the creation of a wildlife habitat from quarried wasteland and the breeding of threatened and endangered bird and plant species.
8. The management plan is for the Trust's purpose and use in achieving the Trust's objective of rehabilitating the quarried land to a conservation park, an objective far beyond the requirement of a resource consent. The management plan is the Trust's tool for managing the park and places no financial obligations on the Council .
9. It is also a requirement of Critical Standard 2.4.19 that the management plan be prepared in consultation with Christchurch International Airport (CIAL) on issues of bird hazard management.
10. Isaac Conservation Trust and the CIAL have started the process of drawing up a Bird Hazard Management Plan that will run alongside the Isaac Conservation Park Management Plan. It is intended that the Bird Hazard Management Plan will be completed by December 2009. This timeframe is based on the establishment of the Bird Hazard Management Plan for Clearwater.
11. As the Bird Hazard Management Plan is the only outstanding requirement of Critical standard 2.4.19 and is to sit as an independent document outside of the management plan, the Management Plan is being deemed complete and ready for submission to the Council.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

12. Within City Plan budget.

#### **Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2006-16 LTCCP budgets?**

13. Covered by existing unit budgets.

#### **LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

14. No particular legal issues arise. By approving the management plan the granting of resource consent for quarrying activities changes from a non complying activity to a restricted discretionary activity.

#### **Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?**

15. As above.

#### **ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS**

16. Aligned with City Plan Activity Management Plan.

#### **Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2006-16 LTCCP?**

17. As above.

#### **ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES**

18. Yes.

**Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?**

19. Yes.

#### **CONSULTATION FULFILMENT**

21. Consultation has been carried out by Isaac Conservation Park with CIAL and with Environment Canterbury.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Council approve the **attached** Isaac Conservation Park Management Plan, subject to the proviso that this approval shall lapse unless the Bird Hazard Management Plan has been completed within 12 months of approval of the Park Management Plan in consultation with Christchurch International Airport Ltd and to the satisfaction of the General Manager Strategy and Planning.