

## 6. TAPUI TAIMOANA: REVIEWING THE MARINE RESERVES ACT 1971

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Corporate Plan Output: Environment, Conservation and Open Space	

The purpose of this report is to seek the Environment Committee's support for submissions prepared on a discussion document, prepared by the Department of Conservation, concerning a review of the Marine Reserves Act 1971. Submissions on this document close on 22 December 2000.

There are currently 16 marine reserves around New Zealand which, if you exclude the large marine reserve around the Kermadec Islands, cover less than 1% of New Zealand's territorial seas. There are currently no marine reserves along the Christchurch coastline, with the nearest reserve being at Flea Bay (east of Akaroa Harbour). One of the five key objectives of the review is to look at changing the focus of these reserves from one of scientific study and to refocus on the protection of marine biodiversity. Our seas cover 480 million hectares (15 times New Zealand's land area) and contain many different ecosystems, ranging from the sub-tropical to the sub-Antarctic. Up to 80% of all our native species may be found here and many are found nowhere else in the world.

The other four key objectives of the review concern:

- adequately recognising the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi,
- identifying how marine management tools can best complement each other,
- streamlining the establishment of reserves while ensuring community and stakeholder input, and
- improving the way in which tangata whenua, local communities and stakeholders can have a say in how marine reserves are managed.

The proposed submissions support the change in focus of the Act to one which places greater emphasis on the protection of marine biodiversity and encourages clearer time frames and processes for consultation and when dealing with applications for new reserves. A copy of the proposed submissions is attached.

**Recommendation:** That the Committee approve the proposed submissions on the discussion document "Tapui Taimoana: Reviewing the Marine Reserves Act 1971".

**Chairman's Recommendation:** Not seen by the Chairman.