

Submission from S Singh dated 17 July 2011

**142 TIRANGI ROAD, LYALL BAY – VESTING OF
RESERVE LAND AS LEGAL ROAD UNDER SECTION
114 OF THE PUBLIC WORKS ACT 1981**

Submission

I am writing to express my opposition to Council's proposal to vest 7m² of recreation reserve situated between 142 Tirangi Road, Lyall Bay, and Lyall Parade, as legal road under section 114 of the Public Works Act 1981 (PWA).

The proposal takes a short term view of both the present and future needs and values inherent in this reserve – a piece of public land that council is meant to protect and administer in its entirety.

1. The land in question is a recreation reserve and should not be altered or fragmented but protected in its entirety as originally conceived.

It forms a single discrete unit that has the function of being a barrier between the industrial and residential area and Lyall bay. Any alteration of its recreation reserve status should be for reasons applying to the whole reserve for reasons appropriate for such a change. Fragmentation to any degree appears to disregard this original purpose.

2. The reserve has acquired further significance in recent times due to developments in the context of climate change. The rise in sea levels has begun even though it is slight at the moment. However the fact this will increase, and at a rate that we cannot predict or be complacent about, means that the reserve land is vital to hold on to in order to shift the road and beach line as needed in the future.

3. The Coastal Policy Statement directs that the local consequences of climate change effects on coastlines be taken into consideration, ie a long view be taken when making decisions in this context..

4. The reserve has additional merit on ecological grounds as being the last remaining strip of back dune area on this part of the south coast that has the potential to be rehabilitated. Coastal areas are the most altered part of our landscapes. All existing reserves need additional protection, not less. Council has downplayed the potential significance of this area and ignores its potential contribution to our bio-diversity.

5. Council appears to have no long term plan for this area yet it is demanded by several pressing issues impacting on this unique spot in Wellington and on our south coast:

- a. the increasing industrialisation of this area as evident by the presence of a new and growing shopping complex;
- b. airport development that is encroaching further into the landscape

around it: the lengthening of the runway, new buildings/hangars being currently built and planned.

c. climate change impacts currently seen in increased storm surges onto beaches, gradual rising of sea levels. Added to this are the long term certain increases in sea levels threatening the use of the coastal areas close to the beach.

6. The change sought to this portion of the reserve appears to grant a privilege to a private owner at the expense to the community and landscape. It is inappropriate. Is it appropriate for a motel to impact on public land in this manner given the number of issues relevant here?

I would ask that this proposal be refused and a long term plan be proposed instead of this reserve with the above points in mind.

Sunita Singh
142 Sutherland Rd
Melrose
Wellington.