

# ORUAITI RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

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# Foreword

## Land acquisition

The Oruaiti Reserve Management Plan (the plan) was approved by Wellington City Council (the Council) on 26 October 2011 and became operative on that date. At the same time, the Council approved the acquisition of more land (Lot 13 DP420813) with the intention of extending the boundary of the reserve. That land was acquired in May 2012.

The process to have Lot 13 designated as reserve under the Reserves Act 1977 is under way but not yet complete. This plan covers the existing reserve and Lot 13 so both can be managed as Oruaiti Reserve.

## Reserve name

The existing reserve land has previously been known as Point Dorset Recreation Reserve. During consultation on the draft management plan, the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust requested that the reserve be named Oruaiti Reserve and the Council has agreed to this. Although the site is part of the historic military base called Fort Dorset, its earlier name was Oruaiti, being part of Oruaiti Pa. The name change will give appropriate recognition in the ancient stories of Wellington and add to the richness of the city. The process required under section 16(10) of the Reserves Act to change the name is under way.

Once the processes required to designate Lot 13 as reserve and rename the original area of reserve land are complete, a minor plan review will be carried out and approved by the Council to reflect the final status and names of the parcels of land that make up Oruaiti Reserve.

This plan reflects the intention to both classify the newly acquired land as recreation reserve consistent with the original reserve and to name the reserve Oruaiti Reserve.

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose of this plan

The purpose of the Oruaiti Reserve Management Plan (the plan) is to provide Wellington City Council (the Council) and Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust (the Trust) with a clear framework for making decisions and managing this reserve for the next 10 years.

The objectives and policies in this plan explain the intended methods for the protection, management, development, operation and public use of Oruaiti Reserve.

This management plan identifies:

- the long-term vision for the reserve
- the natural and cultural features of the reserve and how these will be protected
- recreational activities on the reserve
- general reserve management policies
- actions required to implement this plan.

## 1.2 Point Dorset

Point Dorset is a prominent, undeveloped, coastal escarpment (steep hillside) at the entrance to Te Whanganui-a-Tara (Wellington Harbour). It is situated between Seatoun and Breaker Bay on Motu Kairangi (Miramar Peninsula, see Map A).

It is the site of Oruaiti Pā. O-rua-iti means 'place of the small pit', where the kumara and potatoes cultivated nearby would have been stored.

Point Dorset was named after Dr John Dorset, an early European settler who was a surgeon and local politician.

For many centuries the site has been used by Māori and European to protect Wellington's harbour entrance. The land was used by the Defence Force between 1905 until 1991, and Fort Dorset provided coastal defence and military training.

The Department of Conservation took over the management of the coastal escarpment in 2000 to protect public access and the historic and ecological features.

In 2009, ownership transferred from the Crown to the Trust via the Port Nicholson Block (Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika) Claims Settlement Act 2009. Wellington City Council was appointed to control and manage the land as Recreation Reserve under section 26 of the Reserves Act 1977.

The reserve is culturally and spiritually significant to Taranaki Whānui, being part of Oruaiti Papakainga and a boundary marker for Taranaki Whānui indicating the entrance to the harbour. Pou tohutohu (signposts) guard and protect the entrance of the harbour for the City of Wellington. Taranaki Whānui maintain a kaitiakitanga (guardian) role, fully appreciating and understanding the ecological value and importance of the reserve.

In late 2010 the Council and the Trust invited the community to comment on those features of the site that need protecting and to provide suggestions to assist in the development of this Reserve Management Plan. A summary of this community feedback is provided in Appendix Two.

Through the statutory consultation process, the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust requested that the name of the reserve be changed to 'Oruaiti Reserve'.


The following land is covered by this Reserve Management Plan:

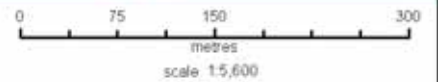
<b>Reserve name:</b>	Oruaiti Reserve (name to be formalised)
<b>Legal description:</b>	Section 1 SO 38155
<b>Certificate of title:</b>	498577
<b>Area:</b>	8.337ha
<b>Reserve classification:</b>	Recreation Reserve
<b>Gazette notice:</b>	No gazette notice. Covered by Port Nicholson Block (Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika) Claims Settlement Act 2009
<b>District Plan zoning:</b>	Conservation site 2C: Fort Dorset; Open Space B
<b>District Plan heritage listing:</b>	Oruaiti Pā is protected as site M114; Fort Dorset is heritage area 17 The land is part of the Rangitatau Reserve Precinct.
<b>Reserve name:</b>	Oruaiti Reserve (name to be formalised)
<b>Legal description:</b>	Lot 13 DP 420813
<b>Certificate of title:</b>	479302
<b>Area:</b>	1.7939ha
<b>Reserve classification:</b>	Proposed Recreation Reserve
<b>Gazette notice:</b>	To be arranged.
<b>District Plan zoning:</b>	Conservation site 2C: Fort Dorset; Open Space B
<b>District Plan heritage listing:</b>	Oruaiti Pā is protected as site M114; Fort Dorset is heritage area 17 The land is part of the Rangitatau Reserve Precinct.

The New Zealand Archaeological Association site records for Oruaiti Pā are R27/115 and R27/116. A midden site, which was probably associated with Oruaiti Pā, is R27/194. All these sites are considered destroyed. The 'military fortification' is R27/178.



**Map A - Oruaiti Reserve**

 **Oruaiti Reserve**



Property boundaries, 20m Contours, road names, rail line, address & site points sourced from Land Information NZ. Crown Copyright reserved. Property boundaries accuracy: 40m in urban areas, 4-30m in rural areas. Census data sourced from Statistics NZ. Postcodes sourced from NZ Post. Assets, contours, water and drainage information shown is approximate and must not be used for detailed engineering design. Other data has been compiled from a variety of sources and its accuracy may vary, but is generally 40-50m.

MAP PRODUCED BY:  
Wellington City Council  
101 Wakefield Street  
WELLINGTON, NZ

ORIGINAL MAP SIZE: A4  
AUTHOR: P&G  
DATE: FEB 2011  
REFERENCE:



### **1.3 Structure of the Reserve Management Plan**

This management plan looks at the core values of Oruaiti Reserve. These are culture and history, landscape, ecology, and recreation and access. For each, there is discussion about the issues, followed by objectives and policies. The management plan also has administration policies (section 6) and an implementation plan (section 7).

### **1.4 Vision**

Ko tō mātou matapae, ko te tiaki, ko te whakamārama, ko te whakaniko, ā, mehemea e hāngai ana, ki te haumanu hoki i ngā āhuatanga ahurea, ngā āhuatanga o neherā, ngā kāinga kanohi, ngā taupuhi kaiao me ngā āhuatanga hākinakina ki Oruaiti, Oruaiti Recreation Reserve.

Our vision is to protect, interpret, enhance, and where appropriate restore the cultural, historic, landscape, ecological, and recreation features at Oruaiti Reserve.

### **1.5 Strategic fit**

In 2005 the Council adopted seven strategies to guide all its activities and business. Two are relevant to this plan.

#### **1.5.1 Environment Strategy**

The aim of this strategy is to protect and enhance Wellington's natural environment. This includes:

- protecting sensitive natural areas and resources
- providing high-quality, accessible green spaces.

#### **1.5.2 Social and Recreation Strategy**

The aim of this strategy is to promote strong, safe and healthy communities. This includes ensuring the infrastructure and services are in place to meet resident and community needs.

### **1.6 Key guiding plans**

#### **1.6.1 Capital Spaces – Open Space Strategy for Wellington Te Whanganui-a-Tara**

This strategy was developed in 1998 and provides directions for an integrated approach to managing the natural and recreational environment, including recognition of important landscape features.

Capital Spaces has an open-space concept that reflects the different characteristic landscapes of the city – from the harbour to the rural hinterland. Point Dorset is included in 'the bays' category. This is described as "an accessible urban coastline which is rich in recreational opportunities and cultural meaning, and emphasises the natural character and beauty of the coast through the protection of prominent landforms and indigenous vegetation".

#### **1.6.2 Wellington Towards 2040: Smart Capital**

Wellington's Towards 2040: Smart Capital vision aims to position Wellington as an internationally competitive city with a strong and diverse economy, a high quality of life and healthy communities. It acknowledges and builds on Wellington's current success.

The vision for Smart Capital will be supported by four Community Outcomes. Based on the city's competitive advantages these are – **Eco-City; Connected City; People Centred City and Dynamic Central City**. These goals inform the Council's Long Term Plan.

## **1.7 Other relevant policies and plans**

Other plans that provide guidance in the development of this plan are:

### **1.7.1 District Plan**

The District Plan is the primary document that manages land use and development within Wellington City. It has been prepared in line with the Resource Management Act (1991).

### **1.7.2 South Coast Management Plan (2002)**

This management plan covers land from just south of the Oruaiti Reserve and all coastal reserves around to Karori Stream. Its primary objective is “to protect and enhance the coastal character of Wellington’s South Coast”.

### **1.7.3 Biodiversity Action Plan (2007)**

The Biodiversity Action Plan coordinates the Council’s biodiversity activities and identifies local priorities and actions. Biodiversity activities include pest control, revegetation planting, and partnerships with other organisations and groups.

### **1.7.4 Open Space Access Plan (2008)**

This plan sets out the Council’s strategic vision for tracks in and between the city’s parks, reserves and open spaces. There are no specific policies or actions associated with this site.

### **1.7.5 Heritage Policy (2010)**

This policy focuses on the built and non-built heritage and trees in Wellington City. It seeks to protect and promote the use of the city’s historic heritage.

## **1.8 Co-management**

Wellington City Council and the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust have developed a series of protocols around co-management of the reserve

- Wellington City Council recognises Taranaki Whānui Mana Whenua status and that Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust has ownership of Section 1 SO 38155.
- Taranaki Whānui and Wellington City Council agree that to the extent that they are able under the Reserves Act 1977 and the Port Nicholson Block (Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika) Claims Settlement Act 2009, and any other relevant legislation they will have particular regard to the Mana Whenua view.
- Taranaki Whānui will recognise the role of Wellington City Council on matters relating to the control and management of the reserve.
- Taranaki Whānui and Wellington City Council will meet annually to review the performance of the management year and proposed work programme for the upcoming year.
- An annual report will be available to Wellington City Council and Taranaki Whānui