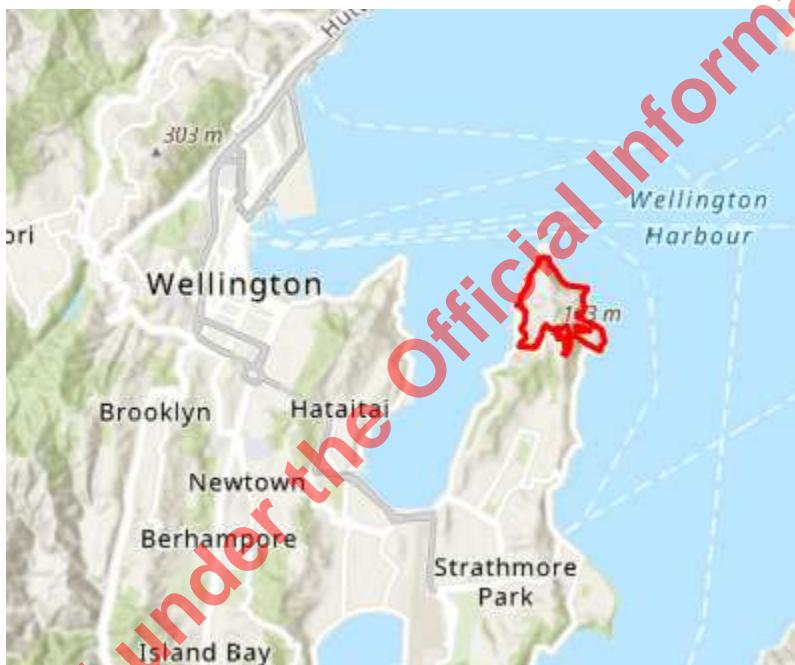


MOC Status Report Item 3.2 – week beginning 15 July 2024

Future management of proposed reserve at Mātai moana/Watts Peninsula

- Mātai moana, or Watts Peninsula, is a culturally and historically significant area of approximately 76 ha located near the entrance to Wellington Harbour (outlined in red on map below).
- In 2017, Cabinet directed LINZ to work with Wellington City Council (WCC) and DOC and mandated that ownership of this ex-Defence land would be transferred from LINZ to DOC and DOC would then establish a reserve and vest the land to WCC.
- Through Budget 2019, LINZ received \$4 million in time-limited funding to maintain and improve the safety of the land and prepare it for public access by 2023.
- In 2021, Taranaki Whānui raised concerns about the lack of their involvement as mana whenua in the governance and management of the proposed reserve. As a result, a working group led by LINZ was established in November 2023, comprising of representatives from DOC, Te Arawhiti, and Taranaki Whānui, to



discuss options for the future management and governance of Mātai moana.

Preferred option

- The working group has identified a preferred option; that the land is transferred from LINZ to DOC with a shared management agreement being put in place in perpetuity between Taranaki Whānui and Wellington City Council (WCC). The agreement would define the control and management arrangements for the proposed reserve including:
 - Governance and decision making.
 - Day to day management.
 - Funding.
 - Establishing strategic and operational plans for the reserve.
 - Public engagement and consultation.

Next steps

- A comprehensive briefing paper is being prepared by LINZ on this matter for the Minister for Land Information.

- If the preferred option is selected, a Cabinet paper will be prepared to seek approval for this option and to confirm the reserve's footprint. Your support for this Cabinet paper will be sought.
- If supported, Taranaki Whānui, WCC, and DOC will progress the development of a shared management agreement. LINZ will continue to have a representative in these discussions.
- LINZ will transfer the land and remaining Budget 2019 funding to DOC on 1 July 2025.

Risks

- s9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Contact: Alice Heather, Director Operations Lower North Island and Chatham Islands:
s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

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MOC Status Report Item 2.3 – week beginning 9 December 2024

Future management of proposed reserve at Mātaimoana/Watts Peninsula

- Mātaimoana/Watts Peninsula is a culturally and historically significant area of approximately 76 hectares located near the entrance to Wellington Harbour.
- In 2017 Cabinet directed Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) to work with Wellington City Council (WCC) and DOC and mandated that ownership of the land would be transferred from LINZ to DOC. DOC would then establish a reserve and vest the land to WCC.
- Through Budget 2019, LINZ received \$4 million in time-limited funding to maintain and improve the safety of the land and prepare it for public access by 2023.
- In 2021, Port Nicholson Settlement Block Trust (PNSBT) raised concerns about their lack of involvement as mana whenua in the governance and management of the proposed reserve.
- As a result, a working group was established in November 2023, comprising of representatives from DOC, Te Arawhiti, PNBST and LINZ, led by LINZ, to discuss options for the future management and governance of Mātaimoana.
- The working group identified a preferred option; that the land is transferred from LINZ to DOC with a shared management agreement being put in place in perpetuity between PNBST and WCC, who would administer the reserve under a control and management agreement.

Current works

- PNBST and WCC are progressing a shared management agreement with a draft expected by the end of this calendar year.
- LINZ is progressing the surveying of the site to support the intended reserve designations for the proposed Mata Moana Park.
- LINZ is undertaking further works on site with the remaining capex funding. This includes:
 - Removal of the asbestos cement roofs from the military magazine buildings, which commenced in November and is expected to be completed in January 2025.
 - Access track and stormwater improvements on Mag Road.
 - Building a retaining wall to manage slip risks on Massey Track (expected to be completed by late January 2025).

Next steps

- A comprehensive briefing has been prepared by LINZ for the Minister for Land Information. If officials' recommended option is selected, LINZ will prepare a Cabinet paper seeking approval:
 - PNBST and WCC will finalise the shared management agreement.
 - LINZ will transfer the land and the remaining funding from Budget 2019 to DOC by 30 June 2025. With the works currently underway and the proposed surveys, the balance of funds may be as little as \$400K at handover.
 - formal control and management agreement will be put in place appointing PNSBT and WCC joint administering body.
- Your support for this Cabinet paper would be sought by Minister Penk.

- Following a 30 November 2024 Herald article on Matai Moana, the Minister for Land Information has requested an update on progress, including seeking confirmation of any risks or concerns WCC may have with the preferred option. WCC's response is pending.

Risks

- **s9(2)(f)(iv)**
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-

Contact: Alice Heather, Director Operations Lower North Island, s9(2)(a)

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MOC Status Report Item 3.5 – week beginning 23 June 2025

Mātai Moana (Miramar Peninsula, Wellington) – possible disposal of land

- This item advises that LINZ has identified an approximate 3-hectare area of land on the western side of the proposed Mātai Moana reserve which may be suitable for disposal.
- The disposal processes will not impact the timing of the proposed transfer of the wider land area from LINZ to us, or the subsequent appointment of Wellington City Council and iwi as the administering body.
- Iwi are aware of the proposal.

Next steps

- LINZ will lead the disposal process. This will include preparing a briefing for yourself and Minister Penk around the proposed disposal and change in reserve boundary.

Contact: Alice Heather, Operations Director Lower North Island: s9(2)(a)

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Cabinet Paper Talking Points: Watts Peninsula - Mātai Moana for ECO meeting

9 April 2025

To	Minister of Conservation		
Committee	Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee		
Date of meeting	8 April 2025		
Reference	25-K-0006	DocCM	DOC-10228911
Minister lead	Minister Penk, Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand Minister Potaka, Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai		
DOC Contact/s	Alice Heather, Director Lower North Island s9(2)(a)		
Security Level	In Confidence (change as necessary see guidance)		

Purpose – Te aronga

1. The purpose of this memo is to provide talking points for the joint cabinet paper being taken to the Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee by Minister Penk and yourself regarding the future management of Watts Peninsula - Mātai Moana, Wellington.

Proposals

2. Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand (LINZ), Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai (DOC), Wellington City Council (WCC) and Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust (PNBST) are working closely to implement previous Cabinet decisions and establish a reserve at Watts Peninsula-Mātai Moana by 30 June 2025.
3. A joint briefing paper providing an update on progress to establish a reserve was provided to you on 25 March 2025 (25-B-0117)
4. Cabinet authority is being sought so that LINZ and DOC can make the necessary decisions on operational arrangements for the reserve.

Ministerial Consultation

5. The following agencies were consulted on the contents of this paper: the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Department of Internal Affairs, Te Puni Kōkiri, Te Tari Whakatau and Treasury.
6. The following matters were raised during consultation which have been addressed in the Cabinet Paper.
 - Opportunities for public consultation and involvement
 - Requirement for a Cabinet Paper
 - Crown Liability
 - Future Funding
 - Reserve Designation and Population Implications
 - Reserve Boundaries

Next steps – Ngā tāwhaitanga

7. Continue to progress operational arrangements for the reserve, including:
8. The establishment of a joint management entity.
9. Transfer the land to DOC.
10. Appoint the joint entity as the administering body for the reserve under a Control and Management Agreement (Reserve Act 1977).

ENDS

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Appendix 1: Talking points

Future Management of the Reserve

- Joint management of the reserve is the preferred and recommended approach by DOC, LINZ, PNBST and WCC. A joint management approach would:
 - a) enable the reserve to be managed in a way that reflects both the interests of the community via WCC and Taranaki Whānui (as mana whenua).
 - b) ensure public access is maintained while preserving the heritage values of the site.
 - c) provide operational funding for the reserve through WCC.
- WCC has stated it is committed to establishing and contributing funding to the proposed reserve. In 2018, Councillors agreed in principle to WCC:
 - a) managing the proposed reserve
 - b) working with iwi on the ongoing development, management and protection of the whenua
 - c) making operational funding provisions in its planning processes.
- DOC and PNBST have engaged with WCC to progress discussions about joint management of the reserve and develop an enduring long term management solution.
- The proposed joint management approach differs from the approach outlined in the 2017 Cabinet paper, in that the earlier plan did not include Taranaki Whānui. The details of any joint management, including the terms of a control and management agreement, and nature of a joint management entity, would be decided by Ministers under Cabinet authority.

Financial Arrangements

- The transfer of this Crown-owned asset from the administration of LINZ to DOC under the Public Works Act 1981 will be fiscally neutral. It will transfer from the non-departmental accounts of LINZ to the non-departmental accounts of DOC with no impact on Crown debt and would be an equity transfer/non-cash transfer.
- While the Crown will retain ownership of the reserve under the Reserves Act 1977, it will not be liable for any ongoing operational or maintenance costs.
- WCC's most recent 10-year long-term plan (2024-2034) allocates annual funding of \$0.75m to meet the operational and maintenance expenses of the proposed reserve. The long-term plan also allocates \$2.5m from the Plimmer Bequest Trust to support the development of the reserve. (subject to council approval)
- WCC's proposed Annual Plan for 2025/26 sets out how it will deliver its long-term plan. The proposed document has provision to fund the reserve from 1 July 2025.(subject to Council approval)
- DOC has made it clear in discussions that it is not funded to contribute to the reserve operationally.

Liabilities

- Through Budget 2019, LINZ received \$4 million in time-limited funding to manage, maintain and improve the safety of the land at Watts Peninsula and, working with WCC, prepare it for public access. LINZ has been working to reduce/remove current known hazards. When this work is completed the main health and safety risk will be the pine trees, which will be managed by the new joint-management entity.
- It is proposed that unspent amount of the Budget 2019 funding will be transferred to DOC, along with the land, at the planned transfer date of 1 July 2025. It is anticipated that the management entity could access this funding as a grant from DOC to be used for works on the reserve, in line with the Budget 2019 decisions.

- DOC have made it very clear in discussions with iwi and WCC that they are not funded to contribute to any future liabilities – therefore any such liability would sit with the joint-management entity. DOC have agreed in principle that the Heads of Terms will include a provision that if liabilities arise that need to be addressed, the parties will enter into discussion in good faith in relation to options for meeting those costs.
- As the asset will be on DOC's non-departmental accounts, if any future liability arises from previous Crown use of the land funding would need to be sought.

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Appendix 2: Copy of Recommendations

Recommendations

The Minister of Conservation and Minister for Land Information recommend that the Committee:

1. **note** that the Minister of Conservation and Minister for Land Information intend to implement previous Cabinet decisions and establish a recreation reserve at Watts Peninsula by 1 July 2025.
2. **agree** to delegate authority to the Minister of Conservation and Minister for Land Information to make operational decisions relating to establishing and managing the reserve.
3. **note** that the transfer of this Crown-owned asset from the administration LINZ to DOC under the Public Works Act 1981 will be fiscally neutral.
4. **note** that as a non-departmental asset, if any future liability arises from previous Crown use of the land funding would need to be sought.

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