



Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy
Factsheet 173
November 2008
New Zealand Government

Abel Tasman National Park Management Plan



View from ridge near Goat Bay

Abel Tasman National Park

The Abel Tasman National Park Management Plan (the plan) was approved by the New Zealand Conservation Authority on 9 October 2008. This means that the directions provided in the plan are now in force.

The plan will guide the management of the Abel Tasman National Park for the next 10 years, covering a range of issues such as island restoration, pest control, historical heritage protection, visitor use, facilities, and commercial recreational opportunities.

The plan was developed following an extensive public consultation process, including public notification of the draft plan in January 2006, submissions, hearings, and consideration by the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board, the New Zealand Conservation Authority and the Minister of Conservation.

Abel Tasman National Park (the park) is the smallest (23,500 ha) national park in the country but one of the most visited, due to its reliable, mild climate, and its location adjacent to an easily accessible coastline with stunning scenic values and a backdrop of forested hills. While most people think of the beautiful Abel Tasman beaches as being part of the park, in fact they are not. The park boundary is the Mean High Water Mark – the high tide mark. The beaches and estuaries are part of the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve, which is jointly administered by the Department of Conservation and Tasman District Council. A separate management plan is being developed for the foreshore reserve.

The plan



Marahau

The plan identifies the values, and addresses the issues and management of the park based on three distinct 'places' within the park. These places are:

1. The Coast – the coastal margin from Marahau in the south to Wainui Bay in the north to 500m inland of the Coast Track;
2. The Interior – the inland areas of the park;
3. The Islands – the islands of the park.

Because these three places are different, particularly with respect to visitor use, the plan sets out a number of provisions for dealing with the various issues, covering:

- (a) Natural and Historical Heritage – indigenous species and ecosystems; landscape and landforms; and historical and cultural heritage; and
- (b) Access and Use – visitor management; visitor use; and concessions.



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Cleopatra's Pool, Abel
Tasman National Park

There are also other sections of the plan that deal with the Treaty of Waitangi; community relations; and administration, implementation and review.

Overall, the long-term vision for the park is where:

- Indigenous vegetation has fully regenerated;
- Indigenous flora and fauna have been restored and are not threatened by introduced plants or animals;
- Scenic and geological values have been preserved;
- The cultural and historical heritage of the park has been protected and preserved;
- People come to experience the unique and accessible coastal setting and the beauty and tranquillity of the park, in harmony with nature and each other; and
- The adjacent coastal environment is managed in a way that is integrated with the management of the park.

The Places

The Coast

The key plan provisions for the Coast include:

Natural and historical heritage preservation

- ✓ Restoring dune and wetland areas;
- ✓ Managing threatened plants;
- ✓ Carrying out pest control in conjunction with local landowners where possible;
- ✓ Retaining historic trees that do not cause problems;
- ✓ Advocating for sensitive development on adjacent private land;
- ✓ Protecting the heritage landscape of Totaranui; and
- ✓ Ensuring visitor use and facilities do not affect historical sites.

Access and use

- Setting out clear characteristics and outcomes for the four Recreational Zones, where visitors can have different recreational experiences –

- **Totaranui** (the campground)

Where visitors can experience a traditional, self-reliant, classic New Zealand family beach holiday camp with flush toilets, cold showers and treated water, but no power. Up to 1200 visitors per day may be in the campground during the summer school holidays, with 850 staying overnight.

- **Coastal Access Points** (Anchorage, Bark Bay (Wairima), Onetahuti, Totaranui coast)

Locations where there is good infrastructure (toilets, huts, campsites) to support high numbers of visitors per day (up to 700 per site). These sites are where commercial activities are concentrated, particularly during the early morning and afternoon. Visitors can expect frequent interactions with other visitors.



Family tramping, Headlands
Track, Totaranui



Abel Tasman Memorial

- **South Coast** (the Coast south of Tataranui, except for the Coastal Access Points and the Abel Head promontory; and including the Falls River Track, the Pukatea Walk and the Abel Tasman Memorial)

Predominantly natural places, relatively un-crowded, with a range of facilities (from a hut at Awaroa to small campsites, and toilets), where commercial activities can still occur and there are regular visitor interactions (up to 500 people per site per day).

- **North Coast** (the Coast north of Tataranui, plus the Gibbs Hill Track and the Abel Head promontory)

Visitors can experience tranquillity and solitude in a largely natural setting, with minimal noise and few interactions with other visitors (up to 200 per site per day). Facilities include huts and campsites with toilets. Guided walking groups may be encountered. Mountain biking is permitted on the Gibbs Hill Track in the winter months from 1 May to 1 October, for a two season trial.

- Working with Tasman District Council and other stakeholders to seek integrated management for the park, the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve and the coastal waters;
- Not increasing the number or capacity of huts, campsites and other facilities, such as toilets, on the Coast Track;
- Restricting open fires to formed fireplaces;
- Managing recreation concessions (e.g. guided kayaking and walking) in accordance with limits placed on activities (group sizes; how often, where and when a group can go into the park); and
- Monitoring recreation concession activity and visitor experience to ensure they meet the characteristics and outcomes for the four Recreational Zones.

The Interior

The key plan provisions for the Interior include:

Natural and historical heritage preservation

- ✓ Carrying out ecological surveys of key areas;
- ✓ Undertaking integrated pest control in key areas;
- ✓ Protecting the cave and karst areas; and
- ✓ Preserving historical sites.

Access and use

- Setting out clear characteristics and outcomes for the two Recreational Zones – Inland Tracks, and Remote - where visitors can have different recreational experiences;
- Allowing mountain biking year-round on part of the Moa Park Track between the Rameka Track turnoff and the Wainui Track turnoff;
- Maintaining the current huts and tracks; and
- Only allowing recreation concessions for guided walking and hunting.



Sign at the beginning of the track which goes from Tataranui to Awaroa Bay

The Islands

The key plan provisions for the Islands include:

Natural and historical heritage preservation

- ✓ Restoration in conjunction with maintaining their pest-free status;
- ✓ Re-introduction of species;
- ✓ Making Tonga and Pinnacle islands Specially Protected Areas; and
- ✓ Carrying out a full archaeological assessment of Fisherman Island (Motuarero-iti) and Tonga Island.

Access and use

- Encouraging the use of the toilets on the mainland prior to visiting the islands (which don't have toilets), or using portable toilets;
- Closing Tonga and Pinnacle islands to the public by making them Specially Protected Areas;
- Keeping the islands free of facilities, except Adele Island (Motuarero-nui) and Fisherman Island (Motuarero-iti); and
- Allowing recreation concessions on Adele Island only.



Tonga Island

If you would like to see the whole plan it can be viewed on the Department of Conservation's website www.doc.govt.nz.

A hard copy can be purchased from the Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy Office at 186 Bridge Street, Private Bag 5, Nelson 7042 ph 03-546 9335 or email nelson-marlboroughco@doc.govt.nz.

If you would like further specific information please contact Katherine Hughes, Management Planner ph 03-546 3164 or email khughes@doc.govt.nz.



Adele Island