

Turitea Reserve Location

What is this project about?

Setting the long-term direction for managing the Turitea Reserve. This means classifying the reserve under the Reserves Act 1977, and then developing a management plan.

What does this require?

The key things that have to be done are:

Classifying the Reserve, which determines the primary purpose of management. All reserves must be classified under the Reserves Act. Classification does not determine what can or cannot occur, rather it identifies the primary focus of reserve management. Proposed classifications for different parts of the Reserve are outlined below.

Developing a Management Plan, which defines how the reserve will be managed. This includes the sort of activities that need to be undertaken, and how any uses need to be controlled. The management plan will publicly identify the policies that the Council will follow in managing the reserve. This plan will need to be consistent with the primary purpose of each area of the reserve (as defined by the classifications). This stage will begin once the classification has been confirmed. However, as part of the overall consultation process, we are seeking your views now on the key issues for management.

The Steps.

This project includes the following steps...

- Proposing classification and receiving public submissions on this.** We are now seeking submissions on the classifications proposed below. The closing date for submissions is 15 August. Following that date, a final decision on classification will be made.
- Notifying our intention to prepare a management plan and seeking people's input in identifying key issues.** Written submissions on suggestions for management of the reserve are now being received. The closing date for these is 14 September.
- Focus group meetings:** Before we draft the plan, we will talk to a wide range of groups representing various community interests. Focus groups will be set up after the final date for written suggestions. If you would like to be involved in this process, please contact us.
- Developing a draft management plan:** Drafting of the plan will begin after the focus groups are set up
- Public notification of the draft plan and receiving submissions:** Once a draft management plan is prepared it will be publicly notified. There will be a minimum of 2 months for the public to examine the draft and make submissions on it.
- Revision of the draft and approval of the final plan:** Submissions will be taken into account in producing an amended plan to be formally approved by the Council.

What makes the reserve important?

Water supply: This is a very significant resource that provides major community benefits. The Council has legal responsibilities under the Health Act to maintain water supply quality and this will be a major focus of the reserve's management. The water supply catchment covers 2400 hectares of the reserves total area of 3550 ha, and provides over half of Palmerston North's water supply. As well as the catchment itself, water supply resources also include the upper and lower dams and the treatment plant.

The water supply was first developed in 1889. The first dam was built in 1907 and a second was constructed during the 1950s. During the 1990s the lower dam was re-built and the treatment plant upgraded.

Native Plants & Animals: The reserve is predominantly covered in native forest, from tall tawa dominated forests on the lower slopes, to exposed scrublands on the main range. The reserve supports a good variety of native birds including kereru, tui and bellbird.

Vegetation in the reserve has been affected by fires prior to 1900. Introduced browsing animals such as possums and deer have also had major impacts, particularly during the middle of last century.

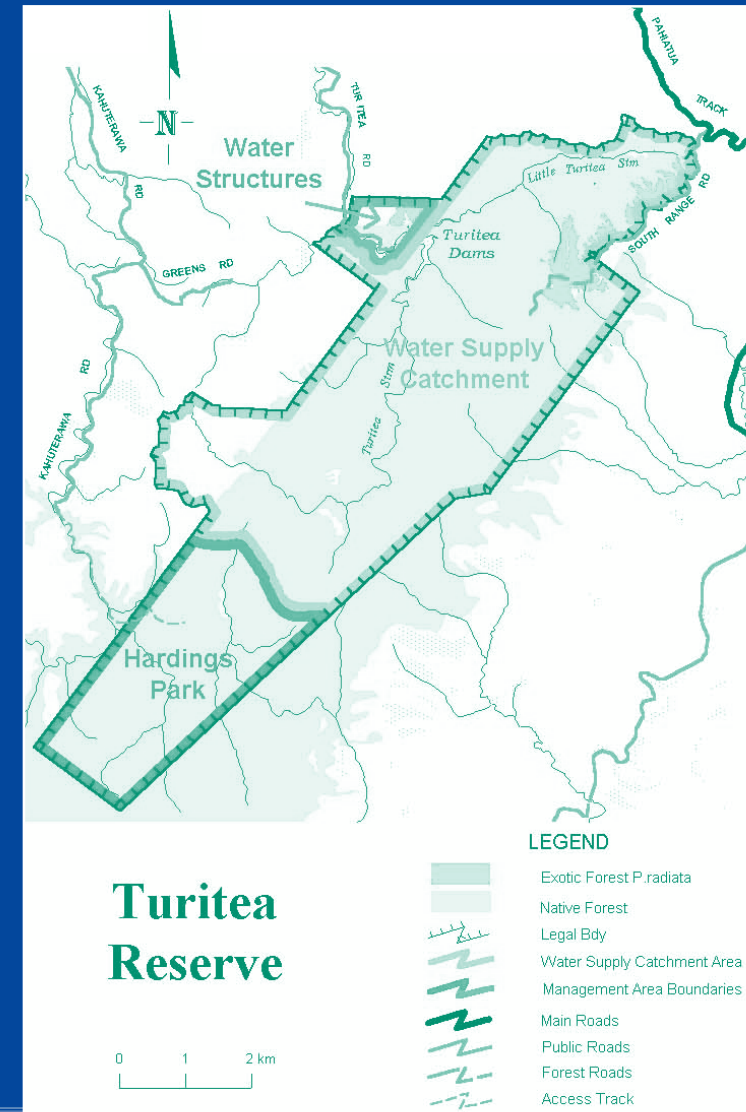
Landscape: The reserve forms a highly visible native forest backdrop to central Palmerston North.

Plantation forests: The reserve contains approximately 130 hectares of radiata pine forest.

Recreation: Recreational use is currently restricted to hunters, who are allowed access under a permit system to control deer and other browsing animals. Hunters are allowed access to the catchment only if they meet certain health requirements.

A significant area of the reserve known as Harding's Park is outside the water supply catchment and offers opportunities for additional recreational use, especially given its close proximity to the popular Kahuterawa area.

Energy: A small hydroelectric power plant is currently being developed in connection with the existing water supply dams and pipe work.



Turitea Reserve

LEGEND

- Exotic Forest P. radiata
- Native Forest
- Legal Bdy
- Water Supply Catchment Area
- Management Area Boundaries
- Main Roads
- Public Roads
- Forest Roads
- Access Track

Proposed Classifications

Different parts of the reserve are important for different reasons and the types of management required will vary between these areas. Because of this, separate classifications for three different areas (see map) within the reserve are proposed.

1. **Water supply catchment area:** This area includes the water supply catchment as well as a buffer around the catchment. Total area approximately 2600 ha.

Proposed Classification: Local Purpose Reserve (Water Supply & Protection of Indigenous Flora & Fauna).

Explanation: This classification will require the Council to give equal importance to looking after the water supply and managing indigenous flora and fauna. The importance of this area as the major water supply for Palmerston North means that Council needs to be able to undertake management for water supply purposes as one of the primary objectives. This purpose is not specifically provided for in any other form of reserve classification under the Reserves Act 1977. The importance of indigenous flora and fauna in the main catchment area, and the compatibility of their protection with protecting water supply, means the equal status of these purposes is appropriate.

2. **Water supply structures area:** A total area of approximately 100 ha.

Proposed classification: Local Purpose (Water Supply).

Explanation: This area encompasses the water supply engineering works, namely the dams, pipe work and treatment plant. The primary objective within this area is the management of these structures for water supply purposes. A high degree of management of this area by the Council for the maintenance and protection of water supply is required.

3. **Harding's Park:** This is a total area of approximately 850 ha to the south of the water supply catchment.

Proposed classification: Scenic Reserve (a)

Explanation: This area is outside the water supply catchment and is not used for water supply purposes. It has indigenous forest cover and provides significant scenic values in the area. It also has considerable potential for public recreational use, given its proximity to the popular Kahuterawa area. The scenic reserve classification specifically provides for public access.



Answers to some questions

What is local purpose classification?

Under a local purpose classification, the primary purpose of management is specified with the classification (e.g., management for the purpose of water supply and protection of indigenous flora and fauna).

What is scenic reserve classification?

The primary purpose of a scenic reserve is to protect and preserve areas of scenic interest, beauty, natural features, or landscape. Scenic reserve classification specifically provides for public access to the reserve.

So why local purpose and not scenic for the catchment ?

It is important that Council has the power to legally control the area to protect water supply. A scenic reserve classification does not allow for the identification of water supply as a primary purpose, and therefore limits the ability of the Council to protect the water supply.

Does the Council have more powers under a local purpose classification?

A local purpose classification does give the Council greater ability to make decisions without approval from the Minister of Conservation. The preparation of a management plan is not legally required for a local purpose reserve under the Reserves Act. However, to ensure that the community has input to the management of the area and that this management is publicly debated, the process set out in this pamphlet will be followed, and a full management plan prepared for the entire reserve, as set out in the Reserves Act. The final plan will be adopted by a resolution of the Council.

We would like to hear from you:

Please contact us if:

- You would like to make a submission on the proposed classifications - closing date 15 August.
- You would like to make suggestions on the key issues for management of the reserve - closing date 14 September.
- You would like to meet with us as part of a focus group.

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Working on behalf of:

Palmerston North City Council
CityWATER

Working with our Community to Build a Better City



Management of the Turitea Water Supply Reserve

We Want to Hear Your Views

The Palmerston North City Council (Council) manages the Turitea Reserve, which is Palmerston North's main water supply catchment. The Council needs to prepare a management plan for the reserve.

Before we prepare the plan, we need to hear your views on the future of the reserve. Because the reserve is a water supply area, it is very important that the Council protect water quality. However the Council has some discretion over other aspects of reserve management, and we want to hear the full range of views on these issues, to help us make decisions on the long term management direction.

