

4.0 Management Aims, Objectives and Policy

4.1 MANAGEMENT AIM

To provide for passive recreation and access to the coast, while stabilising and enhancing the foredune landscape through indigenous plantings and access management.

WAINUI BEACH RESERVE ACCESS MAP

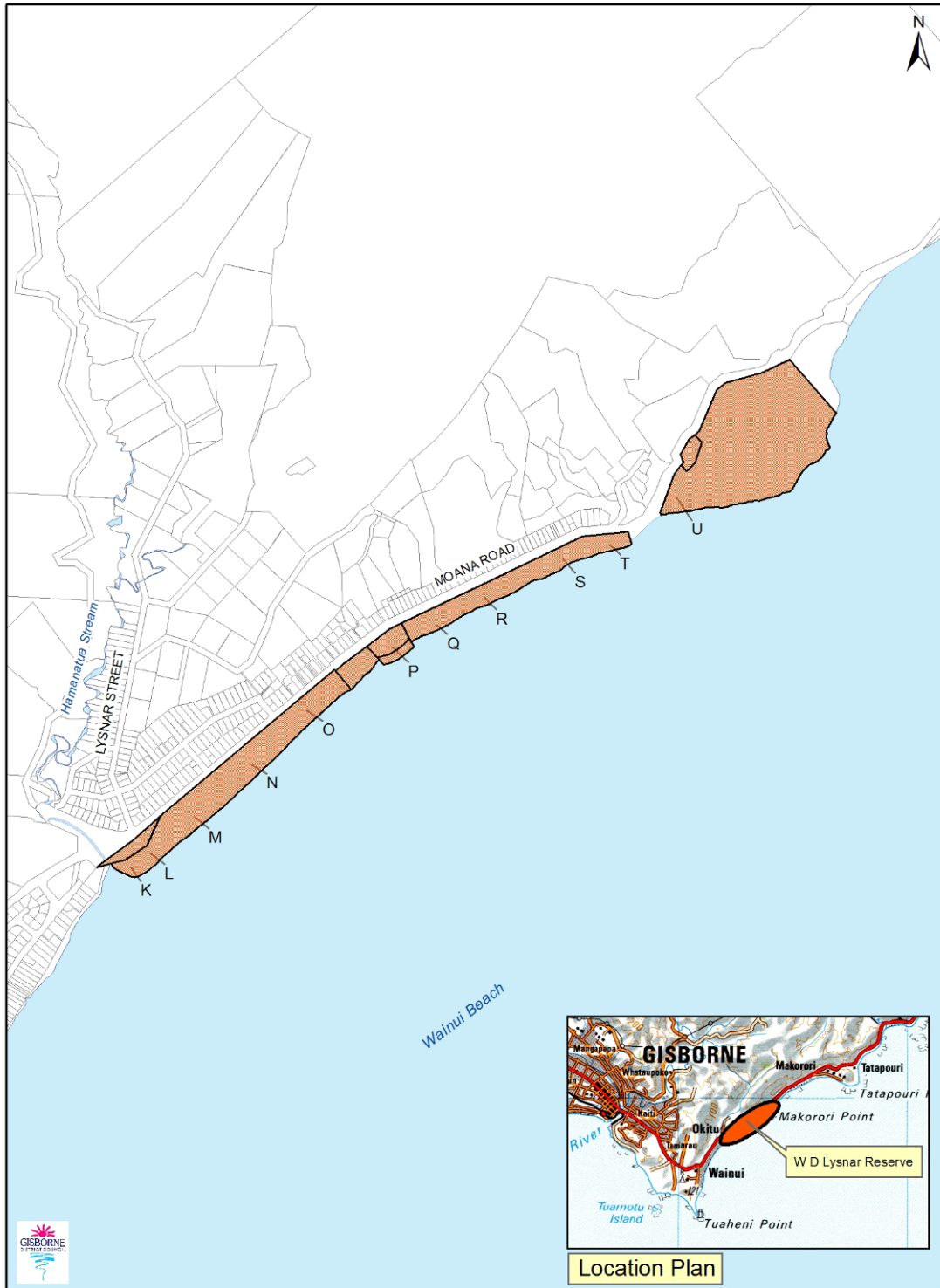


Wainui Beach Reserves
Beach Access

Contains Crown Copyright Data - Sourced from Land Information NZ.
Plot Date - November 15 2007
E:\Projects\lysnar2.mxd

Scale 1:8,000

W.D. LYSNAR RESERVE ACCESS MAP



W D Lysnar Reserve
Beach Access

Contains Crown Copyright Data - Sourced from Land Information NZ.
Plot Date - November 15 2007
E:\Projects\lysnar.mxd

Scale 1:15,000

4.2 RECREATION MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE

Objective:

To manage Wainui Beach Reserve and W.D Lysnar Reserve as popular visitor destinations and encourage passive recreation and provide access to Wainui Beach.

The following recreation nodes are high use areas and will be given management priority:

- ◆ Stockroute (access F¹⁵)
- ◆ Hamanatua Stream (access J)
- ◆ Wainui Surf Club (access K)
- ◆ Pines (access L)
- ◆ Chalet (access P)
- ◆ Northern carpark (access T)

4.2.1 Policy 1) – Pedestrian access

To provide beach access and a continuous walking track along the length of W D Lysnar Reserve for pedestrians.

Discussion 1)

Each access area described as A – U (as shown on the Beach Access maps on previous pages) provides pedestrian access to the beach (there is a total of 21 established pedestrian accessways along the length of Wainui Beach). All accessways should be sign posted, provide steps or sandladders to descend to the beach where necessary, and should provide the most direct route from car parking areas to the beach.

A continuous walking track will be maintained along the length of W.D Lysnar Reserve from Wainui Surf Club to Makorori Headland. At present, walking tracks zigzag the dunes, and in several instances the walking track running parallel to the beach becomes disconnected and pedestrians are required to drop down to the beach before being able to join the dune track again. Stepping stones will be used to provide a continuous walking track along the full length of the dunes. The Dunes are popular for walkers and runners, particularly during high tides.

For development information for each access area see Annex 1 - Site Descriptions and Management Recommendations.

¹⁵ Refer to Wainui Beach Reserve and W.D Lysnar Reserve Access Maps

4.2.2 Policy 2) – Vehicle access and carparks

Maintain, upgrade and review current vehicle access and carparks. Any carpark development will be sympathetic to the fragile dune environment. Vegetative screening will be used on Wainui Beach Reserve to screen car parking areas.

Discussion 2)

Carparking will be provided at the following areas:

- ◆ H (Schools)
- ◆ J (Hamanatua Stream)
- ◆ K (Wainui Surf Club)
- ◆ L (Pines)
- ◆ M (Okitu Store)
- ◆ N (between Francis and Douglas Street)
- ◆ P (Chalet)
- ◆ R (One Pine)
- ◆ S (Whales)
- ◆ T (Northern carpark)

Vehicles damage the fragile dune environment, therefore carparking areas considered surplus to requirements will be made pedestrian access only. Existing vehicle accessways O and Q will be closed¹⁶.

Vehicle accessways will be developed using the following management methods:

- ◆ Fencing designated carpark areas with bollards to contain vehicles.
- ◆ Fencing along the ocean side of carparking areas should include a flat wooden rail to provide seating.
- ◆ Upgrading of carparking surfaces (including ‘the Chalet’ and the boat ramp at the end of Pare Street) should use a hard-wearing porous road surface - not tar-seal.
- ◆ The car ramp to the beach at Northern Carpark will be closed for vehicles and become pedestrian access and horse access only.

▪ ¹⁶ Before accessways are closed and barriers erected, a ‘Coastal Care’ or other awareness raising campaign on the need to protect coastal landscapes is recommended. See Annex 3 for an example of the type of information that could be used in a campaign.



Figure 7: Hard-wearing durable surfaces similar to the above paving option provide necessary protection against earth movement and serve as a softer landscaping feature.

- ◆ Encouraging reserve users to access the dunes at the main access points through improved signage. Bollard fencing will be used to restrict vehicle along the length of the reserve.

4.2.3 Policy 3) – Horse access

To use signage to encourage horse access at the following points: Access C (the southern side of Wainui Stream), Access P (Chalet) and Access T (Northern carpark).

Discussion 3)

Wainui Beach has a long history of horse riding and this should continue. Signage will advise Horse riders as to appropriate access points. Access is not permitted over the dunes. This will be enforced through the Gisborne District Reserves Bylaw (30/01/92) under 1710 Riding and Driving, which states:

No person shall park, ride or drive any motor vehicle or cart, motorcycle, power cycle or bicycle, or drive, ride, or lead any horse, or other animal on any area of any reserve without the prior permission of an authorised officer of the Local Authority, except on those areas set aside for such purpose.'

4.2.4 Policy 4) –Recreation Activities

To encourage recreation activities, such as walking, running, playing, and picnicking on the Reserves through the provision of appropriate facilities.

Discussion 4)

Adequate signage, carparking, picnic tables, seating, steps, sand ladders and rubbish bins, will be provided throughout the Reserves as shown on landscape plans (see Annex 5). The provision of facilities at key recreation nodes will encourage visitors to these areas. Play equipment between Pines (Access L) and opposite Okitu Store (access M) will be upgraded. Play equipment will only be provided at Access G and M.

4.2.5 Policy 5) – Provision of facilities

To upgrade and maintain reserve facilities recognising the Reserves as a popular visitor destination. All facilities will meet current safety standards.

Discussion 5)

While current facilities are in place and meet basic visitor requirements, the quality of these facilities does not reflect the national significance of the Reserves as a popular beach-front recreational area and visitor destination.

All the main recreation nodes either have toilet facilities, or in very close proximity. Toilets are provided at the Stockroute (access F), Wainui Surf Club (access K - with pedestrian access from access L), opposite Okitu Store (access M), the Chalet (access P), and Northern carpark (access T). No further toilet facilities are considered necessary.

4.2.6 Policy 6) – Visually sensitive facilities

Facilities should be visually sensitive and appropriate within the coastal environment setting.

Discussion 6)

Bollards and park furniture should be constructed of organic materials, such as wood, and should blend with the natural environment (i.e. not be painted with a colour). A similar approach should be used for seating. With appropriate construction materials, carparks, walkways and road access areas will be greatly improved.

4.2.7 Policy 7) – Play equipment

Play equipment will be provided at the existing Playground sites only. Play equipment will be maintained to comply with the national safety standards.

Discussion 7)

The Playgrounds between access points L and M are popular with young families and were last assessed in 2006. They are scheduled for upgrading. New play equipment is proposed to replace the existing play equipment near Access M. The swing sets and see-saws near Access L will remain while they are in good condition.

The new play equipment is proposed to go near Access M as shown on the Landscape Plan in Annex 5. The playground should be visible from the car park at Access M and Okitu Store and will extend away from the large Pohutakawa trees and the existing play ground site towards access M car park. The playground should be developed on an area with reasonably even surface.

The playground at access G is also popular with local residents. It is not considered necessary to provide any further play areas or fence the playground at Access M. Play equipment will be maintained to New Zealand Playground Equipment and Surfaces Standard (NZS5828:2004) and upgraded as required.

For future playground development, structures should be built in organic materials (wood) and not painted in bright colours in order to blend with the natural dune environment.

4.2.8 Policy 8) – Dog Use

To ensure dogs are controlled as per Gisborne District Council Dog Policy and Education 2004.

Discussion 8)

The Council has comprehensive regulations to guide dog-owners when using public places including Reserves. At the Reserves, the following specific regulations apply as well as general regulations as outlined in the Gisborne District Council Dog Policy and Education 2004:

- ◆ Dogs on leads during public holidays.
- ◆ No dogs allowed between the red flags on the beach during school and public holidays.

4.3 ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Objectives

The key objectives are:

- a) To keep W.D Lysnar Reserve in a 'natural state' as intended by the Lysnar family in the Deed of Trust (dated 5 December 1921)¹⁷.
- b) To landscape Wainui Beach Reserve with native vegetation to enhance amenity values, mitigate foredune erosion, and provide shade.
- c) To remove exotic vegetation, weeds and plant pests, except where Norfolk Pines are considered a landscape icon (Access L, known as 'Pines')
- d) To help mitigate erosion and stabilise foredunes through planting native sand-binding grasses.
- e) To enhance biodiversity and mitigate erosion through planting riparian margins (Wainui and Hamanatua Streams) with native vegetation, in partnership with adjoining land owners.
- f) To revegetate Makorori Headland with appropriate native species, consistent with Okitu Bush (DOC).

4.3.1 Policy 1) – New Planting on W.D. Lysnar Reserve and Makorori Headland

New Planting on W.D. Lysnar Reserve will include native grasses along the foredunes, native plantings along the riparian margins of Hamanatua and Wainui Streams, at Pines (access L), the Whale grave site, and Makorori Headland.

Community feedback supported retaining Lysnar Reserve in its natural state, consistent with Deed at the time the reserve was gifted to Council. 'In its natural state' has been interpreted by staff and the community as long stretches of dunes and dune grasses. Not planted up with further trees as proposed in the draft management plan.

The water bodies along Wainui and Hamanatua Streams provide natural opportunities for creating enhanced biodiversity, natural character and amenity values. Introducing indigenous re-vegetation, such as flaxes, in partnership with private land-owners will enhance the riparian margins.

4.3.2 Policy 2) – New Planting at the Whale grave site

To enhance the area with feature planting, including low growing native plant species.

¹⁷ The Deed of Trust only covered those land parcels gifted to the County. However, given the special significance of both Reserves to most residents, and that the majority of submissions supported keeping the Reserves in as natural a state as possible, keeping the Reserves in a natural state has been adopted for the length of Wainui Beach, particularly the large expanse of dunes along W.D. Lysnar Reserve. Planting of appropriate native species will be for the purposes of erosion control.

Discussion 2

Once the fencing has been replaced, exotics plants and plant pests have been removed then the area should be enhanced with some feature landscaping to recognize the areas cultural heritage. A sculpture and interpretive panel is also proposed.

4.3.3 Policy 3) – New Planting on Wainui Beach Reserve

To help mitigate erosion of the foredunes and enhance amenity values through native plantings.

Discussion 3

Wainui Beach Reserve provides several accessways to Wainui Beach. Landscaping using native plantings will be used, as shown in Annex 2 Landscape Plans. Sand binding grasses such as pingao and spinifex will be used on the banks of the dune. Other native species will be used to provide shade and screening for neighbours.

The water bodies along Wainui and Hamanatua Streams provide natural opportunities for creating enhanced biodiversity, natural character and amenity values. Introducing indigenous re-vegetation, such as flaxes, in partnership with private land-owners will enhance the riparian margins.

4.3.4 Policy 4) – Removing weeds, plant pests and exotics

To remove plant pests and weed infestations currently dominating sections of the Reserves. Exotic species will also be removed using a phased approach.

Discussion 4)

Both Reserves have serious weed infestations and problems with plant pests. A weed management programme should be developed in discussion with Weedbusters, who can potentially provide advice, support, and assist with community working parties.

Exotic species will be removed throughout the reserves using a phased approach. Where they provide a safety concern, or are blocking resident's views their removal should be given priority. The mature Norfolk Pines at access M (also known as Pines) should remain. They are a landscape feature of Wainui Beach and are currently stabilizing the dune. However, once they become unstable or unsafe, or are no longer considered to behaving a stabilizing effect they will be removed.

All juvenile species will be removed and replaced with low-growing native species.

Exotic species on the Whale grave site will be removed and replaced with feature planting to commemorate the site. Low-growing native species will be used.

Makorori Headland is infested with weeds and plant pests such as pampas. Exotic tree species such as Eucalyptus will be removed using a phased approach, re: native tree species will be planted and once established the exotics should be removed. This technique will be used to try to minimize the potential impact to land stability.

4.3.5 Policy 5) – Tree Maintenance and Removal

To regularly maintain (lift and thin) indigenous trees and shrubs to assist plant health and minimize reducing residents view shafts¹⁸ A committee will be formed and should meet biennially to consider public requests for trees to be pruned/removed.

Discussion 5)

While the overall objective for reserve management is to maintain mature indigenous trees, Council recognizes most of the Pohutakawa trees on W.D. Lysnar Reserve were planted by well-meaning community groups with limited/if any supervision from Council. In one location in particular these form a ‘wall’ of vegetation and block resident’s views. Council’s first response to requests to remove foliage in order to retain a view shaft will be to remove near-by exotic vegetation in the first instance.

This will reduce foliage density in some areas and may provide a view shaft. If this action does not alleviate the problem, any requests to remove native trees will be addressed by a committee comprised of Council, Department of Conservation and a professional arborist. The committee will meet biennially to review requests to remove trees. Decisions on which trees to remove will consider:

- ◆ If the resident has any other ocean view shaft.
- ◆ Number of requests to remove trees in a certain area.
- ◆ How long a resident has lived in the house (to ascertain how much vegetation has grown since they purchased their property – people who purchase a property with no ocean view shaft made their purchase with this knowledge).
- ◆ The health of the tree and neighbouring vegetation.
- ◆ The risk of exacerbating erosion by removing the tree.

¹⁸ Thinning and lifting will be part of Council's regular maintenance programme. "Thinning and lifting" in this context refers to the cutting of branches or whorls of branches. It does not mean removing a tree in its entirety. However, in the case of over-crowding, where trees have been planted too close together, and to ensure plant health Council' may decide to removed some trees.

4.3.6 Policy 6) – Litter management

To maintain contracts for litter management and regularly review.

Discussion 6)

With increasing numbers of visitors every year, particularly during times of peak visitation, current waste management practices need to be addressed. It is suggested that rubbish bins not replaced since 2000 are up-graded and additional rubbish receptacles are placed at the following sites: Schools (access H), Hamanatua Stream (J), Pines (L), and Chalet (P).

Emptying of rubbish bins increases over the summer period (from the 20 December through to the 31 January) to a daily empty. From 1 February through to 31 March it changes to Monday, Wednesday and Saturdays.

From 1 April through to 31 October it is only on a Monday and Friday. Further, there is a new Reserves Litter Bin contract which began in July of this year with a new contractor. Council instituted this new management action in recognition of problems of over-flowing rubbish bins over the 2006/7 summer period.

4.3.7 Policy 7) – Private stairs over public reserve to access Wainui Beach

To avoid diminishing the open space values of the landscape or exacerbate erosion from private stairs.

Discussion 7)

In some instances residents are building over the Wainui Beach Reserve local esplanade reserve in order to create private access to Wainui Beach. The following are the design guidelines for structures/modification within the above local esplanade reserve:

- ◆ One set of track-stairs, boardwalk or sand-ladder per residential property.
- ◆ No earthworks.
- ◆ No driveways or boat-ramps.
- ◆ No private gazebos or viewing platforms.
- ◆ No structure will be more than 1 metre wide.
- ◆ The structure will follow the lay of the land and not be built in a straight line over the front of the dune.
- ◆ Structures must be made out of organic materials and should not be painted.
- ◆ No removal of indigenous plants, no planting of exotic species.

- ◆ Planting of Spinifex and Pingao is strongly recommended to stabilize the primary foredune areas. Pohuehue, Sand Coprosma, Carex, flax, cabbage trees, Toe toe and other appropriate indigenous plants should be planted in the sand secondary zone around new structures.

Any earthworks involved, or if the proposed track/structure does not meet the above guidelines, will require a resource consent, as a discretionary activity, under s.22.10 Amenity Reserve Zone in the Gisborne District Combined Regional Land and District Plan.

4.3.8 Policy 8) – Utilities

Utilities should be placed within the legal road where possible. If utilities need to go within the reserve, they should be developed underground.

Discussion 8

As a Recreation Reserve, public works and services can be accommodated with appropriate consent from Council. For example, Wainui, Okitu and other settlements north of the Reserve may be reticulated in the future. Parts of the Reserve could be requested as sites for future water/sewerage infrastructure. Piping between Pump Stations should be placed under legal road and if an option exists to place a Pump Station off primary, secondary or tertiary dunes, that option should be favored. Further, it is not desirable to build any new infrastructure above the ground at the Reserves as structures/buildings will diminish the wilderness and amenity values. Development of new infrastructure, and maintenance and upgrades of existing infrastructure will be permitted; however, no new structures should be built above the ground for public works/services.

4.3.9 Policy 9 – Encroachment

To ensure reserve land is available for the benefit of the whole community, as required under the Reserves Act 1977 through defining reserve boundaries as appropriate.

Discussion

There are a number of cases where adjoining neighbouring properties have illegally encroached on public reserve land or used part of the reserve for private use.

Council has a statutory requirement to administer and manage reserve land consistent with its purpose under the Reserves Act 1977.

Under the Act Council is required to ensure freedom of entry and access (section 17), and under the general purpose of the Act (section

3) Council is required to provide for the preservation of access to and along the sea coast.

In some instances encroachment is quite substantial and limits public perception of public open space. There seems to be a perception that it is acceptable to encroach on to publicly owned land, which does not to happen to the same extent on to neighbouring privately owned properties. In some cases encroachment may have occurred out of genuine misunderstanding regarding boundaries. Once encroachment has occurred it is difficult for Council to reinstate. However, Council has responsibilities under the Reserve Act 1977 and should ensure encroachment is discouraged. Encroachment gone unchecked will only cause further problems in the future and can set a bad precedent.

Council will continue to work with adjoining neighbours to reinstate accurate boundaries and restore access to public spaces.

4.4 EDUCATION OBJECTIVE

Objective ► To recognize the Reserves fragile dune environment and develop its educational potential.

4.4.1 Policy 1) - Coastal Care Programme

To develop a 'Coastal Care' programme, in partnership with groups such as Weedbusters, to educate the public about the need to protect dune ecosystems.

Discussion 1)

While management initiatives such as restricting vehicle access will reduce damage to dunes, it will not eliminate all damaging actions. These initiatives must be supported by an awareness raising campaign to educate the public on why dunes must be protected and what actions damage them. Actions such as dumping green waste, sliding down dunes and ignoring fencing around dune care initiatives will damage the dune environment. Partnering with established groups such as Weedbusters, who have equipment, technical expertise and are experienced at managing volunteer groups, is highly recommended before planning commences and the programme is implemented. This includes designing signs and determining target community groups for a pilot programme.

Similarly, local residents should be advised through an awareness-raising campaign on what plants are possible pests, with seeds being carried into the dunes by wind or birds. Further, residents should be encouraged to plant their own gardens appropriately using trees, shrubs and grasses that pose no threat to the dunes. Annex 3 has an example of the advice given to residents in the Bay of Plenty region

(plants such as flaxes, hebe, pingao, cabbage trees, pohuehue, sand coprosma, sand fescue, Spinifex, ngaio, karo, kohoho etc.).

4.4.2 Policy 2) - Involving Community Groups

To encourage community groups and local schools to adopt areas to enhance or maintain.

Discussion 2)

In addition to the above campaign, several groups have expressed interest in being actively involved in maintaining the Reserves. These groups could be encouraged to ‘adopt’ areas to assist Council in enhancing and maintaining the Reserves. Areas and groups suggested are:

- ◆ School’s (Access H): Wainui Primary School.
- ◆ Makorori Headland (Access U): Forest & Bird, Keep Gisborne Beautiful and Department of Conservation.
- ◆ Dune/Foreshore Planting Programmes along the length of the Reserves: local residents living adjacent to specific sites.

Any proposed community work should be consistent with this Management Plan, and approval must be obtained from Council (Reserves Supervisor). Community/voluntary groups must be supervised by Council staff. Managing these groups should be in conjunction with partners such as Weedbusters.

4.5 HERITAGE OBJECTIVE

To inform the public about the history of the area.

4.5.1 Policy 1 – Historical Information

To use interpretive panels and commemorative planting to either provide historical information and/or to further enhance enjoyment of the reserve.

Discussion 1)

The W. D. Lysnar Reserve has a significant cultural heritage for the people of the East Cape. It was once occupied by Maori, it formed part of the coach mail route between Gisborne and Tolaga Bay, part of the headland was a paddocking station for travelers around the East Cape, the Lysnar family used the area for their riding school/trekking and, over the years, groups such as Wainui Surf Lifesaving Club (Inc.) who operate from the Reserve have become stalwarts of the local community. As a majority of the Reserve was gifted from the Lysnar family, it is befitting they should be publicly acknowledged for the precious gift they left future generations. The planting of a dozen Pohutakawa trees to commemorate the life of H.B. Williams at the lay-

by on Makorori Headland, together with a commemorative plaque noting the purpose of the planting is in keeping with this policy and will be provided for. Design of the plaque and locations for planting the trees must be done with agreement from the Reserves Supervisor. Providing information on significant points in a landscape's history adds value to the visitor experience. It also contributes to people's appreciation of this recreation resource and the need to protect this fragile coastal ecosystem in such close proximity to a main centre. Therefore, an interpretive sign commemorating the history of the Reserve should be placed at Pines Carpark. The site should be placed near the entrance to the track to the public conveniences so as not to detract from the open space amenity values and expansive views. This sign should be developed in consultation with Ngati OneOne kuia.

At this time, the only historical information about the Reserves can be found at the Whales Grave site. The Heritage Sign has information denoting the tragic whale stranding. This sign and other road-side markings should be replaced with a larger interpretive sign which also has pictures of the event and provides more detailed historical information. The new sign should be placed on the northern-most beach-side corner of the site. Further, a sculpture and small viewing area, from which to read the sign while taking in the view of the vegetation and ocean, should be developed in partnership with Ngati OneOne kuia. Thus, turning what is currently a rather disappointing and dangerous road-side stop into a historical feature of the Reserve. Removing exotic pests and adding an attractive indigenous planting scheme on the grave-site will also increase visual appeal.

4.5.2 Policy 2) – Archaeological Sites

All archaeological sites to be protected and managed in compliance with the Historic Places Trust Act 1993.

Discussion 2)

The Reserve's heritage of Maori occupation has been outlined in the Management Plan. The Reserves are well recognized for hosting burial, Pa and Midden sites. However, to the best of Council's knowledge, little archaeological evidence remains today. An archaeological assessment of the Reserves should be undertaken before any earthworks or modifications are undertaken.