
I hereby give notice that the public deliberation for a Special Consultative Procedure will be held on:

Date: Friday, 15 August 2025
Time: 10.00am
Meeting Room: Reception Lounge
Venue: Level 2, Auckland Town Hall
301 Queen Street, Auckland Central

DELIBERATION REPORT - TE ĀRAI REGIONAL PARK

DOG POLICY AND BYLAW REVIEW

PANEL MEMBERS

Chairperson	Cr Josephine Bartley
Members	Cr Alf Filipaina
	Houkura Member Glenn Wilcox

Julie McKee
KAIWHAKAHAERE WHAKAWĀTANGA
HEARINGS MANAGER

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WHAT HAPPENS AT A SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE PROCEDURE PUBLIC DELIBERATION

At the start of the meeting, the Chairperson will introduce the panel members and council staff and will briefly outline the procedure.

The hearing panel have attended a series of Have Your Say events to hear from the public and have read the officers report and written submissions.

The hearing panel will now deliberate on what they have heard and read and will make a recommendation to the Governing Body.

**SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE PROCEDURE - DOG POLICY AND BYLAW REVIEW - TE
ĀRAI REGIONAL PARK**

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Reporting Officer, Kylie Hill, Principal Policy Advisor

Reporting on the outcome of the Te Ārai Regional Park Dog Access Rules Working Group on the proposed Dog Policy and Bylaw Review.

Deliberations on dog access at Te Ārai Regional Park

Te take mō te pūrongo Purpose of the report

1. To assist the Dog Policy and Bylaw Panel further deliberations on proposed dog access rules at Te Ārai Regional Park.

Whakarāpopototanga matua Executive summary

2. To assist the Panel to further consider the proposed dog access rules at Te Ārai Regional Park, staff have summarised advice sought by the Panel from a working group and provided a structure for the deliberations (Attachment A).
3. At the Governing Body meeting to decide whether to adopt amendments recommended by the Panel to the Auckland Council Policy on Dogs in June 2025, the Panel agreed to further consideration of the proposed rules at Te Ārai via a localised working group that consisted of key stakeholders.
4. The Working Group with 11 members (10 voting members) met on 19 July 2025 who identified and considered nine options and provided four recommendations.
 - DOC confirmed dogs are prohibited on Forestry Beach under the Conservation Act.
 - All 10 voting members supported recommendations to provide dog access elsewhere in the regional park to meet community needs and reduce non-compliance in prohibited areas (Recommendation 1) and for clear communication (including signage) and adequate funding for implementation (Recommendation 4).
 - There was majority support by eight members for an interim position allowing dogs off-leash in the quarry area pending development of inland parts of the park that include dog access (Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust was neutral and Birds NZ supported only on-leash dogs in the quarry).
 - There was also support by five members for Council to engage with relevant government Ministers and the Department of Conservation to review the future management of Forestry Beach (Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust and Auckland Council Environmental Services were neutral, Birds NZ opposed, and DOC and Auckland Council Regional Parks had no view).
5. Staff recommend that the Panel consider the working group views alongside public feedback and local board views received on the proposal and make the necessary recommendations to the Governing Body.
6. This approach will help complete the statutory process the council must follow. This includes considering with an open mind the views of people and organisations interested in the proposal and Working Group views before making a final decision.
7. There is a reputational risk that some people, organisations or working group members may not feel their feedback and views were considered or addressed. This risk can be mitigated by the Panel considering all the feedback and views in this report and providing reasons for its recommendations.
8. The final step in the statutory process is for the Governing Body to approve a Panel decision report that contains its recommendations. If approved, staff will publicly notify the decision on council's Have Your Say webpage and publish any update required to the Policy on Dogs.

Ngā tūtohunga Recommendation/s

That the Dog Policy and Bylaw Panel:

- a) mihi / thank the Te Ārai Regional Park Dog Access Rules Working Group members for their report on the possible changes to the proposed dog access rules at Te Ārai Regional Park.
- b) mihi / thank the Working Group facilitator Marlene Oliver and support staff from Environmental Services, Regional Parks, Hearings and Regulatory Practice units.
- c) tono / request that, through the Chief Executive, the manager responsible for bylaws prepare a decision report to the Governing Body for approval of the Panel.

Horopaki Context

Panel agreed to further consider dog access rules at Te Ārai Regional Park

9. In June 2025, the Panel considered a proposal to amend the Auckland Council Policy on Dogs to prohibit dogs on Forestry Beach (Te Ārai Beach South to Pākiri Beach) and associated coastal tracks and to clarify access to the off-leash area at the disused quarry.
10. The proposal was publicly notified for feedback from 20 January until 23 February 2025. During that period, council received feedback from 878 individuals, five organisations, one Māori entity (Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust) and one campaign with 11 signatures.
11. The Panel recommended the proposal be adopted as publicly notified to:
 - protect wildlife (including dotterels) on coastal areas between Te Ārai and Pākiri
 - provide practical access to the carpark near the off-leash area in the quarry
 - maintain consistency with the Regional Parks Management Plan 2022 and Auckland Unitary Plan that direct dogs away from the beach
 - acknowledge Ngāti Manuhiri feedback that confirm their view that dogs be prohibited south of the quarry.
12. At the Governing Body on 26 June 2025 in response to concerns raised by the Rodney Ward Councillor, the Panel agreed to reconsider the Te Ārai Regional Park proposal through a localised working group of key stakeholder representatives ([GB/2025/89](#)).
13. The Panel invited representatives from the Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust, local community organisations that submitted on the proposal, the Department of Conservation, elected members from the Rodney Local Board and Ward Councillor, as well as staff from Auckland Council's Environmental Services and Regional Parks. Together, they formed the Te Ārai Regional Park Dog Access Rules Working Group (Working Group).
14. The purpose of the Working Group was to provide input on possible alternatives to a prohibition of dogs on Forestry Beach and to off-leash dogs at the quarry.
15. The Working Group met on 19 July 2025 and produced a report with recommendations for the Panel to consider (Attachment B).

Tātaritanga me ngā tohutohu Analysis and advice

16. To assist the Panel in its deliberations, staff have summarised the Working Group views alongside public feedback and local board views in Attachment A. This enables the Panel to deliberate and record its recommendations on the proposal to meet the statutory requirements.

17. The majority (76 per cent) of public feedback oppose the proposal with 18 per cent supporting the proposal including Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust and Birds New Zealand.
18. The Working Group with 11 members (10 voting members)¹ met on 19 July 2025 who identified and considered nine options and provided four recommendations. The four Auckland Council and Department of Conservation (DOC) staff members did not participate in any voting.
 - DOC confirmed dogs are prohibited on Forestry Beach (Conservation Act 1987).
 - All 10 voting members supported recommendations to provide dog access elsewhere in the regional park to meet community needs and reduce non-compliance in prohibited areas (Recommendation 1) and for clear communication (including signage) and adequate funding for implementation (Recommendation 4).
 - There was majority support by eight voting members for an interim position allowing dogs off-leash in the quarry area pending development of inland parts of the park that include dog access (Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust was neutral and Birds NZ supported only on-leash dogs in the quarry).
 - There was also support by five members for Council to engage with relevant government Ministers and the Department of Conservation to review the future management of Forestry Beach (Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust and Auckland Council Environmental Services were neutral, Birds NZ opposed, and DOC and Auckland Council Regional Parks had no view).

Tauākī whakaaweawe āhuarangi

Climate impact statement

19. The Policy on Dogs does not directly address the climate change goals in [Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan](#). For example, the Policy focuses more on keeping dogs as a positive part of the lives of Aucklanders.
20. There are no implications for climate change arising from decisions sought in this report.

Ngā whakaaweawe me ngā tirohanga a te rōpū Kaunihera

Council group impacts and views

21. Input from relevant council teams was sought to inform the development of the proposal and the deliberations report, and those teams are aware of the impacts of any final decision and their implementation role.
22. Environmental Services and Regional Parks were members of the Working Group.

Ngā whakaaweawe ā-rohe me ngā tirohanga a te poari ā-rohe

Local impacts and local board views

23. Regional Park dog access rules are of high interest to local boards.
24. The Rodney Local Board supported the public feedback that opposed the proposal. The board's views are summarised in Attachment A.
25. A member of the board was also represented on the Working Group.

¹ Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust, Aotearoa Surf, Birds NZ Auckland Regional Branch, Department of Conversation, Dog Friends Auckland, Love Te Ārai Society Inc, Elected Member Greg Sayers, Rodney Local Board member Geoff Upson, Auckland Council Environmental Services (2 staff, but one vote), Auckland Council Regional Parks.

Tauākī whakaaweawe Māori

Māori impact statement

26. The Te Ārai Regional Park proposal support manaakitanga, whanaungatanga and kaitiakitanga in the Independent Māori Statutory Board's [Māori Plan for Tāmaki Makaurau](#) and the [Schedule of Issues of Significance](#) by providing regulations that help protect people and the environment from harm caused by dogs.
27. Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust feedback supported the Te Ārai Regional Park proposal.
28. Of the 65 individuals that identified themselves as of Māori, 80 per cent did not support the proposal with 15 per cent supporting the proposal.

Ngā ritenga ā-pūtea

Financial implications

29. There are no financial implications arising from decisions sought in this report. The costs associated with implementation will be met within existing budget.

Ngā raru tūpono me ngā whakamaurutanga

Risks and mitigations

30. The following risk has been identified:

If...	Then...	Mitigation
Some people, organisations or Working Group members feel their feedback and views were not considered or addressed	There may be a reputational risk of negative public perception about the decision-making process.	The Dog Policy and Bylaw Panel ensures it considers all public feedback and Working Group views contained in this report and records its decisions (with reasons).

Ngā koringa ā-muri

Next steps

31. Staff will prepare a decision report from the Panel to the Governing Body to implement the Panel directions on public feedback and Working Group recommendations from its deliberations meeting. The report will be circulated to the Panel for approval and if necessary, the Panel can reconvene.
32. The final step in the statutory process is for the Governing Body to approve recommendations from the Panel. If approved, council staff will publicly notify the decision on council's Have Your Say webpage for the proposal and publish any update required to the Policy on Dogs.

Ngā tāpirihanga

Attachments

No.	Title	Page
A	Deliberation Table	
B	Te Ārai Working Group report	
C	Decision-making criteria	

Ngā kaihaina

Signatories

Authors	Kylie Hill Principal Policy Advisor
Authorisers	Paul Wilson Senior Policy Manager

ATTACHMENT A
DELIBERATIONS TABLE

Attachment A – Deliberations Table for proposed dog rules at Te Ārai Regional Park

This attachment provides a structure for further deliberations on proposed dog rules at Te Ārai Regional Park.

It updates the Deliberations Table provided to the Dog Policy and Bylaw Panel at its deliberations on 6th and 13th June 2025.

That Table contained a summary of public feedback on the proposal, local board views on public feedback, information to assist deliberations and a structure for recording recommendations.

This updated Table adds a summary of the Te Ārai Regional Park Dog Access Rules Working Group views and associated staff comments.

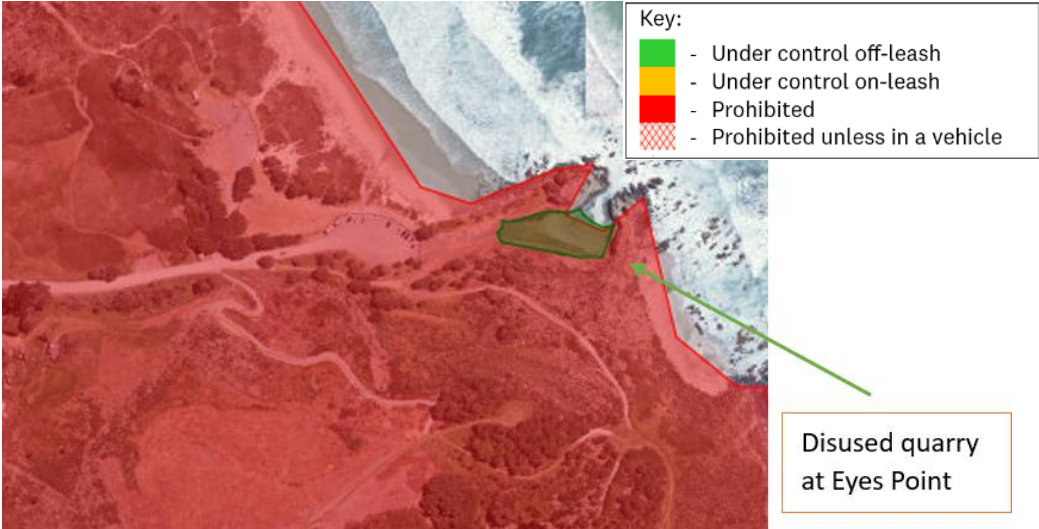

The Dog Policy and Bylaw Panel:



- can view the:
 - summary of public feedback provided in previous deliberations on council's [have your say](#) webpage
 - online and written feedback to the proposal on council's [have your say](#) webpage
 - Local Board views on public feedback to the proposal on council's [hearings](#) webpage
 - Te Ārai Regional Park Dog Access Rules Working Group report in Attachment B.
- must receive the public feedback, local board and Working Group views with open mind and give those views due consideration
- must comply with the decision-making criteria in the Dog Control Act 1996 and the Local Government Act 2002 (See Attachment C).

Notes:

- The number of comments for key themes may not equal the total number of comments stated for the proposal because they include general comments or exclude operational and non-bylaw related matters or that some comments may reflect more than one theme.
- Percentages for feedback responses may not equal 100 per cent because responses other than support or oppose are excluded.
- Staff comments about things the Panel could consider highlight key points for deliberation identified by staff and do not limit the Panel's consideration and deliberation on any matters raised in public feedback, local board views or Working Group report.
- The comments under key themes (the hollow bullet points) are intended to provide some context to the themes contained in feedback. They are not intended to represent all comments in feedback.

Public feedback on Proposal – Key Themes	Staff comment (information to assist deliberations)				
<p>Change dog access rules at Te Ārai Regional Park</p> <p>883 feedback responses: 162 support (18 per cent), 659 oppose (76 per cent), 61 don't know (4 per cent), 21 other (2 per cent) and 549 comments. This includes 5 organisations (1 in support, 4 oppose), 1 Māori entity (Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust in support), and 1 campaign with 11 signatures (oppose).</p> <p>Key themes in support (162):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Majority of those in support thought the proposal makes rules clearer, is reasonable and help protect public safety and wildlife. <p>Key themes opposed (659):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Majority of those opposed thought the proposal is too restrictive for dogs and owners, wanted council to provide more dog-friendly spaces and expressed the importance of dogs having off-leash access:“Forestry beach south of Te Ārai beach is the closest white sand beach with surf waves that we can get to with our dog for a family day out. So many beaches ban dogs during the day in summer. Aucklanders should have a beach they can take the family dog to for a fun day out.”“I believe that retaining dog access to Forestry Beach would be the best location and option for dog access along this coastline. It would future proof the growing needs from the local population of dog owners and for visitors with dogs. It would give dog owners somewhere they are allowed rather than ignoring the rules.”“Dogs are part of our community, and this beach is critical to people and dogs’ wellbeing.”	<table><tr><th>Current dog access rule</th><th>Proposed dog access rule</th></tr><tr><td><p>a) Dogs are allowed under control off a leash in the dog exercise area of the disused quarry at Eyres Point</p><p>b) Except as provided in (a) dogs are prohibited from the Te Ārai Regional Park.</p></td><td><p>(1) Dogs are allowed under control off a leash at the disused quarry and associated beach at Eyres Point.</p><p>(2) Dogs are allowed to access the quarry from the parking area at the end of Te Ārai Point Road nearest the quarry (the eastern car park) when –</p><p>(a) under control on a leash in the parking area and on any path or track with direct access to the quarry from the parking area; and</p><p>(b) in a vehicle from Te Ārai Point Road to the parking area.</p><p>(3) Dogs are prohibited from all other areas of the Park and associated beach and foreshore areas, including –</p><p>(a) on Te Ārai Beach (Te Ārai Beach North) and Forestry Beach (Te Ārai Beach South to Pākiri Beach)</p><p>(b) on any dunes, grassed areas, paths and tracks and campgrounds (for example coastal tracks); and</p><p>(c) on any roads and parking areas, including dogs in a vehicle (for example Western Boundary Road (Forestry Road), Canal Road, Pacific Road and associated parking areas).</p></td></tr></table>	Current dog access rule	Proposed dog access rule	<p>a) Dogs are allowed under control off a leash in the dog exercise area of the disused quarry at Eyres Point</p> <p>b) Except as provided in (a) dogs are prohibited from the Te Ārai Regional Park.</p>	<p>(1) Dogs are allowed under control off a leash at the disused quarry and associated beach at Eyres Point.</p> <p>(2) Dogs are allowed to access the quarry from the parking area at the end of Te Ārai Point Road nearest the quarry (the eastern car park) when –</p> <p>(a) under control on a leash in the parking area and on any path or track with direct access to the quarry from the parking area; and</p> <p>(b) in a vehicle from Te Ārai Point Road to the parking area.</p> <p>(3) Dogs are prohibited from all other areas of the Park and associated beach and foreshore areas, including –</p> <p>(a) on Te Ārai Beach (Te Ārai Beach North) and Forestry Beach (Te Ārai Beach South to Pākiri Beach)</p> <p>(b) on any dunes, grassed areas, paths and tracks and campgrounds (for example coastal tracks); and</p> <p>(c) on any roads and parking areas, including dogs in a vehicle (for example Western Boundary Road (Forestry Road), Canal Road, Pacific Road and associated parking areas).</p>
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<p>a) Dogs are allowed under control off a leash in the dog exercise area of the disused quarry at Eyres Point</p> <p>b) Except as provided in (a) dogs are prohibited from the Te Ārai Regional Park.</p>	<p>(1) Dogs are allowed under control off a leash at the disused quarry and associated beach at Eyres Point.</p> <p>(2) Dogs are allowed to access the quarry from the parking area at the end of Te Ārai Point Road nearest the quarry (the eastern car park) when –</p> <p>(a) under control on a leash in the parking area and on any path or track with direct access to the quarry from the parking area; and</p> <p>(b) in a vehicle from Te Ārai Point Road to the parking area.</p> <p>(3) Dogs are prohibited from all other areas of the Park and associated beach and foreshore areas, including –</p> <p>(a) on Te Ārai Beach (Te Ārai Beach North) and Forestry Beach (Te Ārai Beach South to Pākiri Beach)</p> <p>(b) on any dunes, grassed areas, paths and tracks and campgrounds (for example coastal tracks); and</p> <p>(c) on any roads and parking areas, including dogs in a vehicle (for example Western Boundary Road (Forestry Road), Canal Road, Pacific Road and associated parking areas).</p>				
<p>Reason: to provide practical access to the off-leash area for dog owners, and to clarify the extent of the prohibition rule.</p> <p>Note: The southern beach (known as Forestry Beach) has been used as an unofficial dog off-leash area by local residents.</p>					

Public feedback on Proposal – Key Themes	Staff comment (information to assist deliberations)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some were expressing concerns that the quarry is not a suitable area for dog access as it is a popular area for families: “The quarry is busy, and a lot of families take their young children there to play and swim. It’s not a suitable place for dogs. I cannot understand why you want to crowd people and dogs in such a small area.” Some were expressing a general dissatisfaction with council. Some expressed concerns that responsible dog owners are being punished for the actions of a few non-responsible owners. <p>Local board views (8):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One local board (RD) supports the feedback in opposition to the proposal and suggest input from the local community should take precedence over a “one rule for all” for regional parks. One local board (HW) supports the proposed changes. Four local boards (AE, DT, KT, MO) note the majority opposition to proposed changes and one (KT) provides no view. One local board (MO) emphasises the importance of maintaining off-leash areas, support a balanced approach that protects the environment while enabling access for responsible dog owners, with improved enforcement. One local board (OR) recommends rules on regional parks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> apply a default prohibition rule to reinforce responsible dog owner behaviour 	<p>Current dog access rules (Te Ārai Point):</p>  <p>Proposed dog access rules (Te Ārai Point):</p> 

Public feedback on Proposal – Key Themes	Staff comment (information to assist deliberations)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ prohibit dogs from all known bird nesting foreshore areas ○ allow on-leash access only at defined areas that would not cause disturbance to wildlife or other users, after these areas are independently assessed and local board feedback considered. 	<p>Current dog access rules (whole park):</p>  <p>About 'the proposal is too restrictive' feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Te Ārai Regional Park is located at the northern border of Auckland on the east coast. This is a remote destination that serves locals from Mangawhai and Wellsford, while also attracting visitors from the wider Auckland and Northland area. • Renowned for its surfing beaches, the park has three distinct areas – Te Ārai Point, Te Ārai North and Te Ārai South. Te Ārai South falls under the Local Government Act, and Te Ārai North and Point fall under the Reserves Act. • There are several Department of Conservation parcels of land, marginal strips, and wildlife refuges around and within the park boundaries (such as Mangawhai Wildlife Refuge on its northern border). 	<p>Proposed dog access rules (whole park):</p> 

Public feedback on Proposal – Key Themes	Staff comment (information to assist deliberations)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs are strictly prohibited in the northern beach due to significant ecological and biodiversity values. The beaches and sand dunes are part of a larger Mangawhai-Pākiri sand system which is the largest ocean exposed sandy beach on the east coast of the region. A number of rare and endangered native shorebirds use the inter-tidal zone along the beach frontage for foraging, breeding and roosting including the variable oystercatcher, the northern New Zealand dotterel and the threatened New Zealand fairy tern (a nationally critical species). • The southern beach (known as Forestry Beach) has been used as an unofficial dog off-leash area by local residents. • The southern beach is a habitat for NZ dotterel, variable oystercatcher, Caspian tern, and blue penguin. Birds use this entire coastline for feeding, roosting and nesting. There are also NZ pipit present in the dunes which may be vulnerable to dog predation. • The Dog Control Act 1996 and other council policies place significant value on protecting wildlife. The risk to responsible dog owners and their dogs is significant if a dog causes the death of protected wildlife - up to three years in prison or a fine up to \$20,000 and destruction of the dog. • The Precinct Plan prohibits residents of planned subdivisions in both the north and south areas to keep dogs given the high ecological values of the area according to the Auckland Unitary Plan. These developments will also result in an increase in local residents and visitors to the Park. Allowing off-leash access on the beach risks defeating the purpose of the 'no pet' rule in nearby subdivisions. • The Regional Parks Management Plan mentions opportunity of possible provisions of controlled dog access in the southern inland part of the Park. However, this has not been considered in this proposal as the area can access the southern-most part of the southern beach which is a highly sensitive ecological area. Within the Park, the legal status quo only allows dog access at the quarry area at Te Ārai Point, which dog owners consider small and undesirable, while others consider the area to be more suitable for families. • Other off-leash local parks in the area include the Tomarata Dune Lakes Reserve (8.4km travel from Te Ārai, Fairy Hill Road Esplanade (11.6km travel), Tapu Bush Esplanade Reserve (17km travel), and six other areas in Wellsford (from 28km travel). The nearest off-leash beaches are Mangawhai Cliffs Walkway beach to the north (in Kaipara District, 18km travel or 5km from Maungawhai) which allows off-leash access at all times, and Matheson Bay (43km travel) to the south which allows off-leash access outside of summer daytime.

Te Ārai Regional Park Dog Access Rules Working Group – Key Themes (See Attachment B for full report)	Staff comment (information to assist deliberations)
<p>The Department of Conservation regulate dog access on beach adjacent to Te Ārai Regional Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department of Conservation clarified that there is a marginal strip and crown foreshore along the length of both Te Ārai North and South (Forestry Beach) beaches, but not around the Te Ārai headland. The Mangawhai Marginal Strip is approximately 20m wide with the seaward boundary at mean high tide level. This marginal strip and crown foreshore is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Conservation and is not part of the Te Ārai Regional Park. <p>The Working Group identified nine options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Working Group identified nine options. The nine options had mixed support and were not assessed against the criteria in Attachment B. There was however a clear view that the current dog access at the quarry should be removed. Auckland Council's Environmental and Regional Parks staff and the Department of Conservation did not participate on the options voting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 1: (1 support, 5 oppose, 1 abstain) Dog on-leash access at the quarry and at the nearest carpark to access the quarry Option 2: (6 oppose, 1 abstain) Dog off-leash access at the quarry and on-leash at the nearest carpark to access the quarry Option 3: (6 support, 1 abstain) No dog access to the quarry Option 4: (7 oppose) Dog access to Te Ārai Point headland Option 5: (7 support) No dog access to Te Ārai Point headland Option 6: (5 support, 2 oppose) Dog on-leash access at Forestry Beach carpark, off-leash access up to 3km of the northern part of Forestry Beach Option 7: (7 oppose) Dog access to all of Forestry Beach Option 8: (2 support, 5 oppose) No dog access to all of Forestry Beach Option 9: (3 support, 2 oppose, 2 abstain) Dog access to inland parts of Te Ārai Regional Park (e.g. in the Te Ārai South Recreation Hub Special Management Zone as identified in the Auckland Council Regional Parks Management Plan 2022). <p>The Working Group identified four recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Working Group identified four recommendations. See Key changes sought in the next Table. 	<p>About Department of Conservation (DOC) jurisdiction</p> <p>The DOC rule prohibits dogs on Te Ārai North and South (Forestry Beach) beaches and is contained in NZ Gazette Notice 2004-Inc3536, Issue 62, p.1463 and p.1483/1484 pursuant to section 26ZS of the Conservation Act 1987.</p> <p>The clarification from DOC means council can only decide dog access rules on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> landward areas above the marginal strip of Forestry Beach (for example the dunes, and not the beach) the disused quarry and associated beach and foreshore areas.

Public feedback on Proposal – Key changes sought ¹	Staff comment (information to assist deliberations)	Panel recommendation
<p>Change dog access rules at Te Ārai Regional Park</p> <p>Adopt proposal (162 responses)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> dogs allowed under control off a leash at the disused quarry and associated beach at Eyres Point clarify that dogs are allowed to access the quarry from the parking area at the end of Te Ārai Point Road nearest the quarry (the eastern car park) retain the legal status quo for rest of the Park by clarifying that the prohibition rule applies to all other areas of the Park and associated beach and foreshore areas, including Te Ārai Beach North and Forestry Beach, on any dunes, grassed areas, paths, tracks, campgrounds, and on any roads and parking areas, and dogs in a vehicle. <p>Retain current rule (13 responses)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> dogs allowed under control off a leash in the dog exercise area of the disused quarry at Eyres Point dogs are prohibited from the rest of the Park. <p>More dog access (378 responses)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> of which, 358 responses wanted dog access on Forestry Beach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> of which, 42 responses wanted partial access on Forestry Beach (time and season restrictions, on a section of the beach only, or on-leash access). <p>Less dog access (15 responses)</p>	<p>About the Panel decision-making criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In general, the most relevant criteria in Attachment C for decisions resulting in both more and less dog access in the different zones across the park, focus on determining whether the rules provide for the needs of dogs and their owners in a way that does not create a significant risk, whether there are no practicable alternative solutions to address that conflict, whether (to the extent practicable) displaced dog owners and their dogs have access to other areas, and whether the rule is easy to understand. In the context of Te Ārai Regional Park, this includes for example: considering whether allowing dogs to access the off-leash quarry area from the eastern carpark provides a practical access route for dog owners without significant risk of conflict to people or wildlife considering whether more inland alternatives to the quarry would better provide for the needs of dogs and their owners and avoid inadvertent access to the beach noting that Te Ārai North and Te Ārai South (Forestry Beach) beaches are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Conservation (DOC), that the Panel does not have authority to set dog access rules for these areas and that the current DOC rule prohibits dogs on the beach and foreshore. 	<p>That the proposal to change dog access rules at Te Ārai Regional Park</p> <p>Either [Panel to decide]</p> <p>be adopted as publicly notified.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>be amended to [Panel to insert].</p> <p>OR</p> <p>be rejected and the proposal amended to [Panel to insert].</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Reasons include to [Panel to insert].</p>

¹ Note: a number of people in opposition were not clear on what changes they sought.

Public feedback on Proposal – Key changes sought ¹	Staff comment (information to assist deliberations)	Panel recommendation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> restrict dog access at the quarry (9 responses). <p>More enforcement and monitoring (25 responses)</p> <p>Te Ārai Regional Park Dog Access Rules Working Group recommendations (See Attachment B)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Of the four recommendations, there was unanimous support for dog access somewhere within the regional park and for clear communication of the rules (Recommendations 1 and 4). 1. 10 support dog access within the regional park to allow for community need and reduce non-compliance in areas where dogs are prohibited. 2. 5 support, 2 neutral (Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust Auckland and Council Environmental Services), 1 oppose (Birds NZ), 2 recorded no views (DOC and Auckland Council Regional Parks) council engaging with relevant government Ministers and Department of Conservation to review the future management of Forestry Beach. 3. 8 support, 1 neutral (Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust) and 1 supported only on-leash dogs in quarry (Birds NZ)) an interim position of off-leash dogs in the quarry and to develop and fund a dog a dog access area on the inland parts of the regional park (Te Ārai South Recreation Hub Special Management Zone within 12 months). 	<p>About Working Group Recommendation 2 for future management of Forestry Beach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transferring jurisdiction of this land from DOC to council effectively reduces its status from one of national significance to regional importance. Te Ārai South (Forestry Beach) is ecologically significant due to its ecosystem and species values at a national scale. Environmental Services and DOC staff have provided evidence that reinforces the high conservation value of the area, underscoring its importance at a national level. DOC and Auckland Council manage the area with a focus on protecting its ecological integrity, biodiversity, and threatened species. <p>About Working Group Recommendation 3 for dog access in inland areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed development of the Te Ārai South Recreation Hub Special Management Zone may provide future opportunities for on and off-leash dog access within the forest, for example a 1-1.5 km on-leash loop and an off-leash fenced area approximately 100m x 100m in size. An estimated \$50,000 in funding is required to support the development of the area. Regional Park staff will be responsible for progressing any future development, subject to funding availability and necessary approvals. The Panel could if it wishes, amend the Policy and Bylaw to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reflect that the DOC decide rules on Te Ārai North and Te Ārai South (Forestry Beach) beaches allow for a temporary change to dog access rules at the Te Ārai South Recreation Hub Special Management Zone once an inland area as identified for dogs (this would be proposed as a permanent change alongside other batched change requests) allow for the automatic removal of dog access from the quarry from the date the temporary change comes into effect Taking this approach would: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> allow the rule to be set once the provision for inland car parking and opportunities for on-leash or off-leash dog access as part of the Te Ārai South Recreation Hub Special Management Zone development is more certain 	

Public feedback on Proposal – Key changes sought ¹	Staff comment (information to assist deliberations)	Panel recommendation
<p>4. 10 support clear communication (including signage) and funding required for implementation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ better ensure any proposal protects wildlife and avoids the risk of inadvertent dog access from use of the beachfront car park at Forestry Beach ○ gives a measure of certainty to community that changes will not need to wait for the next batch of change proposals using the special consultative procedure ● As a drafting improvement, the Panel could also if it wishes amend the Policy to identify DOC rules as related information for consistency with how Tūpuna Maunga Authority (TMA) rules are identified in Schedule 2.23 and to provide for DOC and TMA rules to be included as related information in <i>italics</i> elsewhere in Policy to improve certainty (as opposed to ‘related information’ grey boxes). ● As an extension of the temporary change provision for Te Ārai Regional Park, the Panel could if it wishes more generally allow a temporary or permanent (Panel to decide) change to dog access rules to automatically identify any area developed as a fenced dog park to be recognised as a designated dog exercise area in the Policy. Taking this approach would: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ respond to general public feedback seeking more dog access and for more timely updates to dog access rules ○ (due to the fencing) likely meet the criteria in 3.2 of the Policy on Dogs to provide off-leash opportunities without creating significant risks to people, protected wildlife, environment (natural habitat), stock, poultry, domestic animals and property ○ (due to the decision to establish a fenced area requiring a committee or local board resolution) ensure other relevant criteria in 3.2 of the Policy on Dogs are considered. 	

ATTACHMENT B

TE ĀRAI WORKING GROUP REPORT

REPORT TO: Auckland Council Dog Policy and Bylaw Panel

FROM: Te Ārai Regional Park Dog Access Rules Working Group

DATE: Saturday, 19 July 2025

ATTENDANCE:

The following table sets out the Working Group Members that attended the meeting.

Working Group Members	Name	Position
Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust	Delma O’Kane	Kaitakawaenga
Aotearoa Surf	Che Burnett	General Manager
Birds NZ Auckland Regional Branch	Trina Smith	Auckland representative
Department of Conservation	David Wilson	Senior Ranger Biodiversity
Dog Friends Auckland	Claire Teirney	Dog advocate
Love Te Ārai Society Inc	Mark Holliday	Committee member
Elected Member	Greg Sayers	Councillor
Elected Member	Geoff Upson	Rodney Local Board member
Auckland Council Environmental staff	Jane Andrews	Team Manager Ecological Advice
Auckland Council Environmental staff	Imogen Bassett	Head of Natural Environment Specialist Services
Auckland Council Regional Parks	Jason Maguiness	Northern Principal Ranger
Supporting Staff		
Auckland Council	Kylie Hill	Principal Policy Advisor
Auckland Council	Danna Li	Policy Advisor
Auckland Council	Julie McKee	Hearings Manager/Admin Support
Auckland Council	Megan Tyler	Director Policy Planning and Governance
Facilitator		
Marlene Oliver	Marlene Oliver	Facilitator

The following table sets out the Working Group Members that did not attend but provided position statements ahead of the meeting.

Working Group Members
Friends of Regional Parks
Forest and Bird

BACKGROUND

A copy of the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Te Ārai Regional Park Dog Access Rules Working Group (July 2025) (the **Working Group**) is attached as Attachment A.

In summary, the TOR provides as follows:

Purpose:

To provide input on possible alternatives to a prohibition of dogs on Forestry Beach, and to off-leash dogs at the quarry.

Principal Responsibilities:

1. To identify alternative options and to evaluate these against relevant criteria in the Auckland Council Policy on Dogs 2025, the Auckland Council Regional Parks Management Plan 2022, the Auckland Unitary Plan (Te Ārai Precinct) and the Auckland Council Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy 2012; and
2. To provide a written report on the outcomes of discussions on the above.

RECORD OF WORKING GROUP DISCUSSIONS AND OUTCOMES

Working Group Meeting on 19 July 2025 held in Warkworth

Council Jurisdiction – with reference to the Department of Conservation position statement dated 18 July 2025, this clarifies that there is a marginal strip and crown foreshore along the length of both Te Ārai beaches, but not around the Te Ārai headland. This strip is approximately 20m wide with the seaward boundary at mean high tide level. This marginal strip and crown foreshore is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Conservation and is not part of the Te Ārai Regional Park.

NOTE: This separate jurisdiction situation may also apply to other regional park coastal areas.

Attachment B are position statements received from some members of the working group prior to the session. The statement from Forest and Bird has been included noting that the substantive comment was not from the nominated working group representative. Forest and Bird did not attend the session.

The following are the positions each working group member outlined at the session.

Cr Greg Sayers – Acknowledges the positive input from all members of the working party. Rodney is an area with a growing residential and visitor population that will lead to increased pressures on the environment. This context needs to be recognised in planning for the regional parks and dog access areas. Feasibility of setting up a dog access area in the southern Special Management Zone (SMZ) of the Regional Park, with associated car park is within council control.

Aotearoa Surf, Che Burnett – Forestry Beach to remain open with an area dedicated for off-leash. Auckland Council Regional Park team should manage all policies associated with access and use of the regional park and the marginal strip (Forestry Beach). People come to Te Ārai to surf or walk their dogs and to swim. Supports an on-leash area 100-200m where public congregate from carpark south, and then access further down the beach to be off-

leash. No dogs near Poutawa Stream. The disused quarry is not suitable for off-leash dogs as the sole dog access area. It is best suited to family groups and young children.

Department of Conservation, David Wilson - maintain their position as per the position statement of 18 July 2025.

Auckland Council Regional Parks, Jason Maguiness – Balance values across parks. Use of Te Ārai Regional Park is growing and anticipate this will increase. Will be change of use in the Te Ārai South Recreation Hub. This area is still at early concept planning stage. Risk of conflicting opportunities and want to balance all of that. Wouldn't support any dog walking on the head land or south of forestry carpark or north of the headland. Quarry, not ideal but is in current plan as off-leash area. Would like to see dog access opportunity. Supports a fenced off opportunity in the southern recreational hub which would be inland as identified in the Regional Parks Management Plan. This could be given effect to by the council as its on the regional park land.

Dog Friends Auckland, Claire Teirney – Agree with Cr Sayers that Te Ārai south will in future be a popular location. Supports the following proposal: Forestry Beach on-leash left from carpark, off-leash dog access south along the beach for approximately 3km. And then prohibited from last public access point to Poutawa Stream. Refer to attached plan (Attachment C). Recommends no dog access to the quarry and no dog access north of Te Ārai Point because this would confuse dog owners as to where they are allowed at the northern end which has a higher ecological value.

Love Te Ārai Society Inc, Mark Holliday – Currently there are no restrictions on actual use of the beach by dogs for around 50 years and birds are continuing to use Forestry Beach. Notes that there is a lack of survey data on birds on Forestry Beach. Lack of accurate signage needs addressing. Opposed to prohibiting dogs on Forestry Beach. Submissions endorsing need to provide dog access in this area and coastline. No alternative dog exercise areas nearby for 25km of coastline. Supports dogs on-leash from the Forestry Beach carpark and onto the beach, then off-leash for the northern 3km of beach as per Attachment C. South of this area to be prohibited. The quarry area is not suitable for dog access. Dog access from the carpark should be supported with signage and poo bins.

There are other parties who have an interest in the regional park (Te Ārai North Limited, Te Ārai South Limited, Te Ārai Links, Tara Iti, Te Ārai South Owners Society and Tara Iti Residents Association), some who are stakeholders identified in the Regional Park Management Plan 2022. These parties are not part of this working group, but they could be included in future consultation and planning for the use of the park including the southern recreational hub.

Birds NZ Auckland Regional Branch, Trina Smith – supports DOC's position. Seabird and shorebird values are important in the coastal environment. Understand community has lack of dog access areas but considers Forestry Beach is not appropriate for dogs. Agree quarry area can be used for dogs and perhaps other forestry areas could be used for dogs. Provisional support for access into the southern SMZ subject to detailed design. Suggests the Local Board investigate another park outside the regional park such as a farm-style park.

Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust, Delma O'Kane – Recognise effects of wellness of dogs and owners using the beach. Supports the position of their Treaty partner, Department of Conservation. Lack of data about birds and users that use Forestry Beach. Jurisdiction and rules need to be clarified both legally and on the ground. Rules are not well known amongst the community which needs to be addressed. Open to exploring options longer term.

Rodney Local Board, Geoff Upson – The Local Board listens to all parties and views and tries to represent everyone. Acknowledges it has been common practice to use Forestry Beach for off-lead dog exercise. Local Board supports dog access to part of Forestry Beach. It also supports birds and indigenous biodiversity noting the board has allocated money in pest control and cat education programmes. Overall, seeks to permit dogs to have access to part of Forestry Beach as per Attachment C.

Auckland Council Environmental Services, Jane Andrews and Imogen Bassett – Reiterate staff advice that the entire Te Ārai Beach complex supports regionally significant eco systems and threatened species habitats. Therefore, staff advice is that from an ecological perspective that the preferred option would be to support the Department of Conservation's position. Supports a future dog access area inland on the Regional Park (southern hub), on the basis of there being lower ecological values in this area, depending on further site visits to confirm this. Acknowledge council needs to consider all values and achieve a balance. Recommend bird monitoring along the beach is undertaken prior to any policy change that would be carried out over a number of years. Forestry Beach is recognised as a Significant Ecological Area and there are different values for different species.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Working Group identified options (see below). The Working Group did not carry out a comprehensive assessment against all criteria identified in the TOR. Auckland Council's Environmental and Regional Parks staff and the Department of Conservation did not participate in the voting.

Options identified were:

		Support	Oppose	Abstained
1	Dog on-leash access at the quarry and at the nearest carpark to access the quarry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birds NZ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aotearoa Surf • Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust • Dog Friends Auckland • Love Te Ārai Society • Cr Sayers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rodney Local Board
2	Dog off-leash access at the quarry and on-leash at the nearest carpark to access the quarry		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birds NZ • Aotearoa Surf • Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust • Dog Friends Auckland • Love Te Ārai Society • Cr Sayers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rodney Local Board
3	No dog access to the quarry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birds NZ • Aotearoa Surf • Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust • Dog Friends Auckland • Love Te Ārai Society • Cr Sayers 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rodney Local Board

		Support	Oppose	Abstained
4	Dog access to Te Ārai Point headland		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birds NZ • Aotearoa Surf • Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust • Dog Friends Auckland • Love Te Ārai Society • Cr Sayers • Rodney Local Board 	
5	No dog access to Te Ārai Point headland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birds NZ • Aotearoa Surf • Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust • Dog Friends Auckland • Love Te Ārai Society • Cr Sayers • Rodney Local Board 		
6	Dog on-leash access at Forestry Beach carpark, off-leash access up to 3km of the northern part of Forestry Beach – refer map Attachment C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aotearoa Surf • Dog Friends Auckland • Love Te Ārai Society • Cr Sayers • Rodney Local Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust • Birds NZ 	
7	Dog access to all of Forestry Beach		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birds NZ • Aotearoa Surf • Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust • Dog Friends Auckland • Love Te Ārai Society • Cr Sayers • Rodney Local Board 	
8	No dog access to all of Forestry Beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust • Birds NZ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aotearoa Surf • Dog Friends Auckland • Love Te Ārai Society • Cr Sayers • Rodney Local Board 	
9	Dog access to inland parts of Te Ārai Regional Park (eg. in the Te Ārai South Recreation Hub Special Management Zone as identified in the Auckland Council Regional Parks Management Plan 2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aotearoa Surf • Cr Sayers • Rodney Local Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog Friends Auckland • Love Te Ārai Society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust • Birds NZ

Recommendations:

- 1 Working Group participants support providing access somewhere within the regional park for dog access, to provide for community need and to reduce non-compliance in areas where dogs are to be prohibited.
- 2 If the Department of Conservation marginal strip and crown foreshore precludes the Auckland Council Policy on Dogs applying to any part of Forestry Beach, then Aotearoa Surf, Dog Friends Auckland, Love Te Ārai Society Inc, Cr Sayers and the Rodney Local Board recommend that the council engage with the relevant government Ministers and Department of Conservation to review the management of the Te Ārai Forestry Beach marginal strip and the crown foreshore. Auckland Council Environmental Services and Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust are neutral on this point. Birds NZ do not support this.
- 3 If the Department of Conservation marginal strip and crown foreshore precludes the Auckland Council Policy on Dogs applying to the part of Forestry Beach as shown in Attachment C, then an interim position is to continue to allow off-leash dogs in the quarry (noting that this is the current legal position) and to develop and fund a dog access area on the inland parts of the Regional Park ie. in Te Ārai South Recreation Hub Special Management Zone within twelve months. This reflects that the Working Group members do not consider that the quarry is suitable as the only area for dogs. Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust is neutral on this point. Birds NZ support only on-leash dogs in the quarry.
- 4 Whatever options are chosen, there needs to be clear communications (including signage) and funding for such works.

WORKING GROUP MEMBERS CONFIRMATION

All working group members in attendance confirm that this report accurately records the positions and outcomes from the meeting on 19 July 2025.

Te Ārai Regional Park Dog Access Rules Working Group Terms of Reference

July 2025

The Terms of Reference for the Te Ārai Regional Park Dog Access Rules Working Group (TARP) has been developed in response to Governing Body resolution [GB/2025/89](#). The Governing Body decision referred the proposed dog access rules at Te Ārai Regional Park back to the Dog Policy and Bylaw Panel for further consideration through a localised working group including key stakeholder representatives.

This approach aligns with [s83\(3\)](#) Local Government Act which allows the Panel to seek further comment or advice before a recommendation is made.

The Terms of Reference outlines how the Working Group will operate, including the roles, responsibilities, and membership structure.

1. Purpose

To provide input on possible alternatives to a prohibition of dogs¹ on Forestry Beach, and to off-leash dogs at the quarry.

2. Principal responsibilities

2.1 The principal responsibilities of TARP will be to:

- identify possible alternative options to the prohibition of dogs on Forestry Beach, including an evaluation of any alternatives against:
 - relevant criteria in the Auckland Council Policy on Dogs 2025
 - the Auckland Council Regional Parks Management Plan 2022, Auckland Unitary Plan (Te Ārai Precinct) and Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy 2012.
- identify any alternative options to off-leash access at the quarry, including an evaluation against relevant criteria in the above Policy, Plans and Strategy
- provide a written report to the Panel² on the outcome of the discussions, including:
 - any consensus alternative option(s) with reasons
 - any range of options (with reasons) where consensus is not achieved (which can include to adopt the proposal as publicly notified).

2.2 The Table below indicates what is in and out of scope for the Working Group.

In scope	Out of scope
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog access on Forestry Beach, park land adjacent to the beach and quarry. • Implications of dog access on ecological and biodiversity values, including protected species and habitat. • Cultural values associated with the area. • Recreational use of the area for dogs and their owners. • Practical implementation and enforcement of rules. • Criteria in the Policy on Dogs. • Consistency with the Auckland Council Regional Parks Management Plan 2022, Auckland Unitary Plan, and Auckland Council Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy 2012. • Any other relevant matters not identified as 'out of scope'. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog access rules at Te Ārai North and other areas of the regional park. • Dog access rules in other parks or areas not directly related to Te Ārai Regional Park. • Animal Management operations unrelated to dog access at Te Ārai Regional Park.

¹ The legal status of the Te Ārai Regional Park is that dogs are prohibited on Forestry Beach.

² Report to be written by the facilitator on behalf of TARP.

3. TARP members and roles

3.1 Working Group membership will consist of representatives from iwi, community groups, elected members and staff. Membership is limited and set out below in 3.2 to 3.5.

3.2 Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust iwi representation.

3.3 One representative from each of the organisations outlined below:

Community organisations who submitted feedback on the Te Ārai Regional Park proposal	Other organisations
Aotearoa Surf Company Ltd, Birds NZ Auckland Regional Branch, Dog Friends Auckland, Love Te Ārai Society Incorporated	Department of Conservation, Friends of Regional Parks, Forest and Bird

3.4 Councillor Sayers and one representative from Rodney Local Board.

3.5 Auckland Council staff as outlined below:

Working Group members	Support staff
Natural Environment Specialist Services (two representatives)	Regulatory Practice (two representatives)
Regional Parks (one representative)	Houkura (Independent Māori Statutory Board) (one representative)
Any further expert advisor/s identified throughout the process (if required and agreed by the Panel)	Administration support for facilitator

3.6 If an organisation replaces their nominated member on the Working Group, they must advise the secretariat (dogsbylawreview@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz) as soon as possible before any scheduled meeting.

4. Meeting frequency and location

4.1 In-person meetings have been scheduled in Warkworth for 19 July, with a second session on 26 July if required. Any follow-up meetings will be held online if required.

4.2 The Panel appoints Marlene Oliver to act as the Independent Facilitator, including to:

- organise the sessions, including format in conjunction with the Council secretariat
- assist TARP to prepare a report to the Panel recording the outcomes of the discussions, including any matters agreed and not agreed.

4.3 The meetings are not open to the public. Only TARP members, facilitator and support staff may attend. No support people, observers or recording is permitted. Panel members will not be attending.

5. Reporting

5.1 The outcome of the Working Group meetings will be recorded in a report by the secretariat and presented to the Panel by Regulatory Practice staff.

5.2 The Panel will consider the report, deliberate and make a final recommendation to the Governing Body in August 2025 or later if necessary.

5.3 The deliberations / meetings of both the Panel and the Governing Body are open to the public to listen however there is no further opportunities for the public to provide feedback.

Te Arai Regional Park Working Group

Position Statements

Members	Page
Aotearoa Surf	1 - 2
Auckland Council Regional Parks	3 – 16
Department of Conservation	17 – 23
Dog Friends Auckland	24
Forest and Bird	25 – 26
Friends of Regional Parks	27 – 28
Love Te Arai Society Inc	29 – 30
Rodney Local Board	31
Auckland Council Environmental staff	See separate excel doc
Birds NZ Auckland Regional Branch	No statement received
Cr Greg Sayers	No statement received
Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust	No statement received

AOTEAROA SURF

14/07/2025

Aotearoa Surf – Position Statement on Dog Access at Forestry Beach and Disused Quarry

Aotearoa Surf strongly supports continued dog access to Te Ārai South (Forestry Beach) and the surrounding areas, including shared-use zones for off-leash exercise. As a local business operating surf lessons, camps, and guided experiences, we are at the beach daily and have only ever experienced positive interactions with dogs and their owners. There have been no incidents, disruptions, health and safety concerns involving dogs in our time operating at Forestry Beach.

We believe dog access can absolutely coexist with recreation and conservation outcomes at Te Ārai, provided a few common-sense boundaries are in place.

Our recommendation is for continues access for dogs at Forestry beach as it stand now

Alternatively for a leash-required zone from the headland south for the first 200–400m of beach, ensuring reserve users can access the beach safely and comfortably. Beyond this, dogs should be allowed off-leash. This creates a practical balance — encouraging owners to bring leashes and manage behaviour in shared areas, while still allowing dogs room to run, explore, and exercise.

We do not support the proposal for an exclusive 'zone' for dog access at the disused quarry, which is very small, unsuitable, unpractical and uninviting for the public. Instead, we recommend that the current rules of Te Arai north be dog accessible — including the carparks, grassy spaces, and walking routes between Te Ārai Point and Forestry Beach. Continued dog ban for beach and dunes to remain.

Forestry has long been a valued dog-walking destination for locals and visitors alike. With many regional beaches now closed to dogs, restricting access further would unfairly disadvantage dog owners and reduce the park's inclusivity and wellbeing benefits. As a community-minded organisation, we believe dog owners should be able to enjoy Forestry beach in a safe, responsible, and respectful way.

Kind Regards



Che Burnett

General Manager

Aotearoa Surf Company Ltd



Kia ora

Apologies for not getting this through by midday. I ended up with some unexpected time off this week.

Please see below summary of incident reports relating to dogs at Te Arai Regional Park.

I have also attached the Regional Parks Management Plan 2022 Te Arai chapter and map for reference.

Look forward to tomorrow

Te Ārai Dog Incidents:

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Visitor #s	142702	252927	272343	316777
	Reported Incidents			
Total incidents	27	35	120	47
Dog Incidents	9	5	33	12
	Reported Incidents per 1000 Visitors			
Total incidents	0.19	0.14	0.44	0.15
Dog Incidents	0.06	0.02	0.12	0.04

General Overview

- **Most common location mentioned in the reports: Beach** (22 incidents)
- Other notable location mentioned in the reports: *SCC Area*
- Dogs make up between 15% and 33% of the incidents reported

Observation

- Dogs in prohibited areas is the prominent incident type, verses poor dog behaviour.
- Owner excuses are generally that they were unaware or ignoring signage - there is a lot of No Dog signage, but the area at TAP is confusing with the different areas for prohibited, on leash and off leash; there is a long history of these beaches being used for dog walking.

- Rangers educating and redirecting visitors to other locations - Forestry or Tomorata.
- Rangers are exposed to some aggressive behaviour from dog owners.
- There was a significant spike in incidents reported during the 2023–2024. This was mostly due to increased reporting by staff but will be in part to increase in visitor numbers.
- Reports do not give a clear break down of locations. Of the 59 incidents reported over the last four years, six mention they were at Forestry Beach, and 17 at Te Arai Point.
 - Of the 17 at Te Ārai Point, six detail incidents where the dog was on the sand at North Te Ārai Beach, two of which state the dog was off leash.
- For 2024-25, the 12 dog incidents were:
 - Five incidents of dogs on Te Ārai North beach
 - One incident of dog in the picnic day
 - One incident of dog walking along a park road on route to Forestry Beach
 - Two incidents of dogs in the CSC parking area
 - One incident of dog on the Dunes at Pacific Road
 - One incident of dog walking up headlands track to get to Forestry Beach

Ngā mihi

Jason

Jason Maguiness | Principal Ranger

Northern Regional Parks | Parks & Community Facilities

Ph [REDACTED] | Mobile [REDACTED]

Auckland Council, Wenderholm Regional Park, Schischka Road, Waiwera

PO Box 66, Waiwera

Visit our website: www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



Te Ārai Regional Park

Land status (LGA or RA)	Local Government Act 2002 – Te Ārai South. Reserves Act (scenic 19(1)(b)) – Te Ārai North, western area of Te Ārai Point Recreation reserve – eastern areas of Te Ārai Point
Category ¹²²	1 – Natural / cultural (low use) – Te Ārai North 1 – Natural / cultural (high use) – Te Ārai Point and Te Ārai South
Size	450.8ha with a further 26.3ha yet to be vested, so over 477ha in long term
Map 16	Te Ārai Regional Park
Special covenants or legal requirements	As part of the Te Ārai South acquisition there is a public access easement over a 26.3ha area by Tomarata Lake extending through to Slipper Lake. The 26.3ha area is to vest in council in the future. ¹²³



1. Park vision

An expansive coastal park, protecting a number of threatened species and coastal ecosystems. The rich cultural landscape is acknowledged, and the park provides a diverse range of experiences where people can be active and enjoy the remoteness of this special place.

2. Mana whenua associations

Several mana whenua have associations with Te Ārai Regional Park reflecting their connections, occupation and activities over hundreds of years to the present day.

Some of the cultural values of this park important to mana whenua are outlined below, however the council recognises that a number of mana whenua have associations with this park and that further work to strengthen its relationships and partnership will support better understanding of these associations.

¹²² Refer to chapter 4 – Management Framework for the [Park categories](#) descriptions

¹²³ As part of the same acquisition a degree of future proofing has been applied to the parkland stretching along the coastal edge. Council is entitled to a park of a minimum width of 100 metres between mean highwater springs mark and the landward side of Lot 300. This includes the ability to move the park boundary should coastal erosion impact the width of the park. The council is able to acquire land from the vendor where it sits within the open space areas shown marked as V, W, X, Y and Z on the Subdivision Plan.

Working with mana whenua to preserve park values and tell the story of the park is also supported by the management intentions below.

Te Ārai North has been created as a result of subdivision of a former Crown-owned forest. The intent of this subdivision was for Te Uri o Hau to achieve commercial redress under their Treaty of Waitangi Settlement. This plan recognises the gifting of the Te Ārai North parkland from Te Uri o Hau. The addition of this parkland to the regional park was contingent on the approval of the use and development of the adjoining private land as provided for under the Te Ārai North Precinct Plan.¹²⁴

Te Ārai South has also been created as a result of subdivision of a former Crown-owned forest. This management plan recognises the gifting of this southern parkland from Ngāti Manuhiri and that the addition of this parkland was contingent on the approval of the use and development of the adjoining private land as provided for under the Te Ārai South Precinct Plan.¹²⁵ The precinct plan includes provision for papa kāinga development, subdivision and associated housing and commercial development, including sand extraction, camping-style accommodation and recreational activities, and private easements through the park. These activities and development are necessary for Ngāti Manuhiri to achieve commercial redress under their Treaty of Waitangi Settlement, and represent a significant opportunity for Ngāti Manuhiri to advance its economic, cultural and social wellbeing in partnership with others.

The Ngāti Manuhiri Claims Settlement Act 2012 includes a coastal statutory acknowledgment describing the association and connections Ngāti Manuhiri has with Te Ārai, and a statutory acknowledgement of association over the Ngāroto Lakes.

The Te Uri o Hau Claims Settlement Act 2002 includes a statutory acknowledgment over the Mangawhai Marginal Strip adjacent to the park.

The Te Kawerau ā Maki Claims Settlement Act 2015 and the Ngāi Tai ki Tamaki Claims Settlement Act 2018 also include a coastal statutory acknowledgement describing the iwi association with this area of the Hauraki Gulf.

The Ngāti Paoa Deed of Settlement 2021 (still to be enacted) contains a statement of association with the coastal area.

3. Park description

Te Ārai Regional Park covers over 450ha and stretches 11km along the Te Ārai coastline. The park has three distinct areas: Te Ārai Point is the initial central area held as regional park, with two additions of land at Te Ārai North and Te Ārai South as described in section 2 above.

Together with regional parkland at Pakiri, Te Ārai forms part of a wider coastal park network on the north-eastern coast of the region. This network also includes various land areas managed by Department of Conservation (DOC).

Te Ārai North covers 217ha, extending 5km northward along the coast from Te Ārai Point to the southern boundary of the DOC-managed Mangawhai Wildlife Refuge. DOC marginal strips run along the entire coastal edge and along both banks of the Te Ārai Stream which crosses this area of the park about 2km north of the point. The parkland adjoins a 46-lot coastal residential area and private golf course. A public

¹²⁴ Refer to chapter I of the Auckland Unitary Plan, No. 541

¹²⁵ Refer to chapter I of the Auckland Unitary Plan, No. 542

Regional Parks Management Plan

access easement through private land that is in favour of both the Crown and Council (known as Pacific Road) provides public access to a car park and the coast.

Te Ārai Point consists of 80ha on the Te Ārai Point rock promontory (also known as Eyre's Point). This provides a main arrival area from Te Ārai Point Road and offers expansive views of the coastline. It contains two pristine dune lakes, areas of freshwater wetlands, and is adjacent to a small DOC managed stewardship block.

Te Ārai South currently consists of approximately 153.8ha of land along 5km of the coast south from Te Ārai Point to Poutawa Stream, extending inland. DOC marginal strips run along the entire coastal edge and along both banks of the Poutawa Stream. The parkland adjoins a proposed 60-lot coastal residential development, including papa kāinga housing and golf courses.

Te Ārai South Precinct Plan provides for the western part of the precinct to be used for sand mining and, following the completion of sand mining by a commercial operator, a further approximately 26.3ha of land will be acquired as part of the park. Until the land vests, it is subject to a pedestrian right of way easement and will contribute to the track network (refer to Map 16).

Forestry Road currently provides public access to an arrival area and the coast on its northern edge.

Ecology

The beach and dunes of Te Ārai are part of a larger Mangawhai-Pakiri sand system which is the largest ocean exposed sandy beach on the east coast of the region. The fore-dune and immediate back-dune areas are structurally intact and have relatively natural sand dune communities, including the best example of pīngao-spinifex sedgeland (DN2)¹²⁶ on mobile sands within the Rodney Ecological District.

Further inland, formerly mobile dunes were stabilised with exotic forestry, planted in the 1960s. These forests have been harvested and native vegetation cover is being progressively restored along the fore-dune and other areas of the park.

A number of rare and endangered native shorebirds use the inter-tidal zone along the beach frontage for feeding, and the sand flats and lagoon at the mouth of the Te Ārai Stream and Poutawa Stream for breeding and roosting, including the variable oystercatcher, the northern New Zealand dotterel and the threatened New Zealand fairy tern (a nationally critical species).

The dune ecosystem at Te Ārai is an important habitat for shore skink (an at-risk species) and increasingly rare katipō spiders have also been recorded there.

The western portion of the point contains coastal forest and shrublands dominated by aged pōhutukawa and two small, impounded dune lakes (Little Te Ārai Point Lake and Little Shag Lake). The lakes retain their natural state and are free from pest fish. They are nationally recognised as threatened ecosystems. To the east of these lakes is a wetland mosaic, with raupo reedland (WL19) extending across the valley bottom and interspersed among the raupo are two areas of manuka, greater wire rush, restiad rushland (WL2). This wetland ecosystem type is critically endangered in the Auckland region and only occurs at two locations within the Te Ārai catchment.

To the immediate north of Te Ārai Regional Park is the 245ha Mangawhai Wildlife Refuge (MWR) located on a 3.5 km long sand spit situated between the Mangawhai Harbour estuary and the ocean. The MWR, managed by DOC, is identified in the [Northland Conservation Management Strategy](#) as a priority ecosystem

¹²⁶ Refer to Appendix 6 [at page 476](#) for a description of the indigenous terrestrial and wetland ecosystem types

that DOC considers nationally important, being significant as breeding grounds for the threatened northern New Zealand dotterel and fairy tern.

Cultural heritage

Mangawhai (including Te Ārai) was originally populated by Ngāi Tāhuhu, who descended from Tāhuhunuiōrangī, an ancestor also to Ngāti Manuhiri. Te Uri o Hau and Ngāti Whātua eventually assimilated with Ngāi Tāhuhu and together with Ngāti Manuhiri, Te Uri o Hau have strong spiritual, traditional and historical connections with the area.

Mangawhai (including Te Ārai) was a very important mahinga kai / food gathering area for the Ngāi Tāhuhu people because of its abundant fish and shellfish resources. Permanent and temporary settlement occurred throughout the area, and there are a number of places with special significance to mana whenua including areas of wāhi tapu. This is especially true around the coastal margin of Mangawhai Harbour, the Te Ārai and Poutawa Streams, and the Ngāroto Lakes (Tomarata, Spectacle and Slipper). Middens identified on the site have been carbon dated to 400 years ago which coincides with the arrival of the Ngāi Tāhuhu people to the Mangawhai area.

Te Ārai o Tāhuhu (the shelter of Tāhuhu) is the name of the headland at Te Ārai Point and was the location of the pā of the founding ancestor of Ngai Tāhuhunuiarangi, one of a number of pā that guarded coastal kāinga between Te Ārai and Pākiri. The headland is the only prominent point jutting out into the South Pacific Ocean between Mangawhai (Bream tail) and Omaha (Cape Rodney) and was visited frequently by passing waka. It remains an important tribal boundary marker for mana whenua today.

Te Uri o Hau has many wāhi tapu sites in the north that make this a sacred place to them. There are 25 recorded historic heritage sites within the boundary of Te Ārai Regional Park and a further eight sites in the adjacent land or around the park's periphery. Those within the park include the pā site and a number of midden and pits representing Māori settlement activity; and a historic house site, quarry area and boat shed representing historic European settlement. The archaeological evidence at Te Ārai and surrounds attests to a long and potentially intensive settlement of the area and there are likely many more as yet unrecorded sites located in the accretion dunes.¹²⁷

History of park formation

The first areas of the park were acquired on Te Ārai Point in the 1950s and 1970s by the Rodney District Council. Auckland Regional Council then acquired approximately 50ha on the point in 2008 that formed the basis of the regional park. In 2013 the 28ha of local park at the point was amalgamated into the park.

Extension of the parkland came about a result of two separate gifts of reserve land in the north and the south by mana whenua. Te Ārai North was vested in the council in 2015 and Te Ārai South in November 2021.

¹²⁷ All of the sites in the regional park are protected under consent conditions and are to be protected and managed by Council.



Te Ārai Regional Park (north)

4. Recreation provision

Te Ārai Point has historically been the main arrival area to the popular Te Ārai beach which is a renowned surfing spot. It contains visitor facilities such as vehicle parking, toilets, picnic tables and a certified self-contained vehicle parking area. Tracks have been developed up and around the headland. The top of the headland offers panoramic views along the coast to the north and south. No public access is provided to the freshwater lakes, but the eastern lake can be viewed from the Te Ārai track. The point has two designated hang gliding and paragliding launching sites.

Northern access to the park is off Pacific Road. A small car park is located just behind the fore-dune, while a larger car park has been developed another 1500m back off Pacific Road on the boundary of the park. Existing forestry roads provide walking, biking and horse riding opportunities.

In the south, Forestry Road provides access to the beach. A forestry track on the back-dune provides access along the coast to Poutawa Stream and the southernmost point of the park.

5. Pressures, challenges and opportunities

Climate change

The coastal area is susceptible to the impacts of sea level rise and storm surges. The point, in particular, may experience land instability and the car park has already been pulled back to provide a grassed buffer. This plan proposes pulling this back further from the coastal edge.

These threats from climate change and consideration of the identified 170m coastal hazard zone¹²⁸ will need to be assessed as part of any new park development.

Many of the cultural heritage sites at Te Ārai are in the coastal environment and are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Further work is required to prioritise sites for protection or recover archaeological information. Cultural heritage also needs to be considered when planning for coastal protection and managed retreat, to ensure sites are not adversely affected by revegetation or unplanned site disturbance.

Catering for increasing visitor numbers

Vehicle counts at Te Ārai Point show visitor numbers nearly doubled between 2016 and 2021, with a peak of 165,000 visitors in 2020, dropping to 131,000 in 2021. This has caused congestion at the car park on busy weekends and good surf days with people parking along Te Ārai Point Road. There have been requests to provide some overflow parking, seal the road, and introduce speed restrictions.

More infrastructure, such as toilets, is required in all three main arrival areas to help cater for visitors. With Te Ārai South joining the regional park, this will vastly increase the capacity of the park to cater for recreation. It will provide another main arrival area to Te Ārai Beach. The South will be the main recreation hub with a trail system catering for walkers, recreational cyclists and horse riders and opportunities to stay on the park in a new campground and self-contained campervan area.

The proposed Pūhoi to Mangawhai Trail is planned to traverse the park from south to north. The shared path would leave Pakiri Block Road and enter Te Ārai park land to arrive at Te Ārai Point. The path around Te Ārai Point would utilise available park land as far north as possible before moving back into the roading corridor around Black Swamp Road.

Vehicles on the beach

Vehicles have been banned from the northern beach for some time but access to the southern beach while discouraged, has been raised as an ongoing issue. Visits to this area are expected to grow exponentially with park visitors and from the adjacent residential development. This plan prohibits all unauthorised vehicle access to the beaches adjacent to the regional park.

Restoration and revegetation

Community volunteer groups have made significant contributions to protecting rare and endangered native shorebirds, including predator control and monitoring of breeding programmes. These efforts have been focused around Te Ārai Stream and the headland. Te Ārai and Poutawa Streams provide opportunities for further habitat restoration.

Further planting along riparian margins will be undertaken, particularly along Te Ārai Stream.

Revegetation of the former exotic forested area has commenced as part of the consent conditions for the subdivisions. This will still need to be supported by ongoing pest control and further planting over the next few years, which will include more diverse species, and some canopy species as vegetation matures.

Some stands of exotic forest will be retained. They will provide for recreational experiences in shade and, in the north, a buffer to adjacent residents. This will be dependent on the age of the trees and any thinning and harvesting requirements to address public safety. Most areas will be progressively revegetated with indigenous species.

¹²⁸ Identified in the Te Ārai Coastal Hazard Assessment prepared by Jim Dahm in 2015.

Regional Parks Management Plan

Dog walking

The new subdivisions in the north and south have a 'no pets' rule given the high ecological values of the area. Access for dog walking is currently available at Te Ārai Point under the council's [policy on dogs](#) and [bylaw](#).

The development of a subdivision at Te Ārai South will result in an increase in local residents and visitors to the park, some of whom may seek more opportunities for dog access. There may be an opportunity to investigate the possibility of providing controlled dog access into the southern inland part of the park away from the beach when the dog policy and bylaw are next reviewed.

Enhancing mana whenua connections

Both Te Uri o Hau and Ngāti Manuhiri have aspirations to reconnect to the parkland and have greater involvement in its management.

The park has a rich Māori heritage and contains many important sites of significance to mana whenua. There are numerous opportunities to enhance the visitor experience through promoting cultural identity.

Mana whenua seek opportunities to inform visitors and share mātauranga of the land's cultural significance and unique natural features, including the importance of the habitat protection measures. This includes aspirations for a cultural centre and trails through the park and the installation of pou, cultural art and design in wayfinding, such as in track marker poles to reflect their association to the land. There are opportunities to develop interpretation around the significance of the pā site on Te Ārai Point and other important sites.

Mana whenua have requested involvement in conducting shore bird management and monitoring initiatives as well as other recovery programmes associated with the biodiversity of the bush, lakes and streams, including the use of cultural indicators. This includes supplying plants to support the park's revegetation programmes.

Mana whenua have also requested any concessions on the park be limited to small scale operations and that proposed lease or concession opportunities be offered to mana whenua in the first instance.

6. Management focus

Te Ārai North and the western area of Te Ārai Point is managed as Category 1 – Natural / cultural (low use) which also reflects its status as a scenic reserve under section 19(1)(b) of the Reserves Act. The management of this area of the park will recognise, the critical importance of the foreshore as a habitat for rare and threatened coastal bird species such as the fairy tern and NZ dotterel. The need to protect the significant ecological and archaeological values will mean recreational access will be limited to walking, cycling and horse trails. All trails will be directed away from sensitive ecological and habitat areas and where possible avoid known archaeological sites.

The arrival area at Te Ārai Point and Te Ārai South is managed as Category 1 – Natural / cultural (high use) to reflect the current and anticipated future high visitation levels, with people accessing the beach and the recreation hub.

This is the management focus for Te Ārai for the next 10 years.

- Strengthening the council's relationships with mana whenua and exploring ways for more involvement in park management.

- Ensuring that the reserve land is managed in accordance with the primary purposes it is held for under the Reserves Act.
- Continuing and enhancing programmes to manage threatened species and protect the coastal ecosystem, including targeted pest control.
- Incorporating the new parkland into the regional park through developing track connections.
- Identifying and protecting cultural heritage places within the park.
- Developing a new arrival area, visitor facilities and campground in Te Ārai South.
- Managing the impacts of coastal processes on the park, including reconfiguring the arrival area at Te Ārai Point.
- Providing the opportunity for mana whenua to tell their stories.

7. Management intentions

The management intentions listed below are subject to resourcing being available and need to be read alongside the general policies of this plan.

1. Work with mana whenua to explore their involvement in the management of this park and delivery of the following management intentions.

Natural

2. Protect and progressively restore the habitat quality of all existing lakes, stream margins, wetlands and dune seeps, including through riparian planting.
3. Continue to manage the dune systems to improve their natural form and stability, including reshaping and replanting as required.
4. Continue with a targeted pest plant and animal control programme across all areas of the park, integrated with pest control initiatives being undertaken on adjacent public and private land.
5. Protect the dune systems and sensitive ecological areas and habitats from the adverse impacts of development and recreational activity by limiting access to the points and trail systems shown indicatively on Map 16.
6. Provide for and maintain the revegetation of the dunes and de-forested areas in accordance with the Vegetation Management Plans,¹²⁹ ensuring this includes the provision of shade.
7. Retain some areas of the remaining exotic woodlots to provide shade and shelter for recreation activities, while undertaking some thinning and underplanting with native species. As this native planting establishes progressively removing the pines.
8. Support recovery programmes that manage threatened species, including the management of Tara iti / New Zealand fairy tern led by the Department of Conservation.
9. Manage access points to the beach and the development of tracks in the vicinity of the mouths of the Te Ārai and Poutawa streams to minimise the impact of human activity on the shorebirds.

¹²⁹ Vegetation site management plans are a requirement of the Te Ārai North and South Precinct Plans

Regional Parks Management Plan

10. Provide information on the ecological values of the area and the importance of the shorebird population at all beach access points.
11. Provide opportunities for viewing and interpretation of the shorebird habitat in discrete locations and in a manner that does not disturb the birds.
12. Prohibit unauthorised vehicle access to all dunes and beaches adjacent to Te Ārai Regional Park.
13. Support mana whenua and key stakeholders in monitoring and recording of the productivity of breeding birds at the Te Ārai and Poutawa Stream mouths.
14. Apply more intense management in the following areas to protect the habitats and sensitive ecosystems:
 - a. up to 500 metres from the mouth of the Te Ārai and Poutawa Streams
 - b. over Little Te Ārai Point Lake, Little Shag Lake and the wetland areas on Te Ārai Point.
15. Special management measures may be introduced within the habitat management areas identified in management intention 14 on a temporary or permanent basis to prevent the adverse impacts of human activity, including the exclusion of any recreational activity, if necessary.

Cultural heritage

16. Continue to survey and monitor the state of the cultural heritage places within the park, including defining their spatial extent, and reviewing or developing site specific management actions.
17. Work with mana whenua to identify, protect and interpret Māori heritage.
18. Facilitate the opportunity for mana whenua to tell their stories, including the potential development of a cultural heritage trail and working with them to develop interpretation around the significance of the pā site on Te Ārai Point.

Recreation and use

19. Promote the sealing of Pacific Road and maintain this as an arrival area to Te Ārai North that provides visitor infrastructure in the areas shown on Map 16, including:
 - a. a small parking area close to the beach with visitor information
 - b. a larger parking area off Pacific Road, on the road reserve before the park entrance and within the existing public access easement, with a water supply, visitor information, and shade tree planting
 - c. installing toilets at the eastern intersection of Pacific and Canal Roads.
20. Re-configure the existing arrival area at Te Ārai Point to:
 - a. reduce the vehicle parking closest to the beach and restore the dunes in this area
 - b. consider how best to provide multi-modal access to the park including safe arrival and parking for buses and bicycles
 - c. provide safer access to the beach
 - d. expand the parking area by the toilets to take in the self-contained campervan area which will be relocated to Te Ārai South
 - e. upgrade the toilet facilities and the picnicking areas
 - f. improve visitor information
 - g. provide more shade planting.

21. Investigate locations to install automatic gates on Pacific Road, Te Ārai Point Road and Forestry Road to manage vehicle access to the park.
22. Provide a place in Te Ārai North or at the Point to inform visitors of the land's cultural significance and unique natural features, including the importance of the habitat protection measures.
23. Develop a network of tracks in accordance with the general layout shown on Map 16, that:
 - a. provides for walking, running, tramping, recreational cycling and horse riding
 - b. provides a series of loops, connecting the new areas of the park with Te Ārai Point and provides access to the beaches and Tomarata and Slipper Lakes
 - c. avoids ecologically sensitive areas and provides buffers between the tracks and the fore-dunes and/or park boundary
 - d. recognises in the south, tracks through the golf courses and future sand mining operations area, may need to be occasionally realigned to respond to movement in the sand mining operations and golf course activities, in accordance with the provisions of the Te Ārai South Precinct Plan
 - e. provides for connections to other regional trails such as the Pūhoi to Mangawhai Trail.
24. Direct all recreational activities such as walking, running, tramping, recreational cycling, horse riding, and camping onto designated trails and sites. Prohibit off-track activity.
25. Prohibit horses from within 200m of Te Ārai Stream, except at a designated crossing point and 50m from Poutawa Stream.
26. Ensure all new park infrastructure, with the exception of car parking or temporary structures, is not constructed within the 170m coastal hazard zone¹³⁰ and that existing infrastructure is removed when practicable.
27. Consider authorisations for a limited number of small-scale commercial activities that enhance the use of the park, such as a surf school, ensuring these are appropriately located in the vicinity of arrival areas and do not compromise the remote visitor experience.
28. Add design features to the new Te Ārai Stream bridge that address public safety and ensure the bridge fits more aesthetically with the park environment.
29. Consult with the local surf lifesaving clubs about facilitating mobile surf lifesaving services at Te Ārai Point if the need arises.

8. Special management zone¹³¹

Te Ārai South Recreation Hub SMZ

The parkland off Forestry Road is relatively expansive and provides opportunity to develop facilities that support a range of active and passive recreation. This will provide access to the beach, Slipper Lake and a network of tracks. The recreation tracks will not be confined to the south of Forestry Road and may extend over inland and coast parks of Te Arai Point to north of Forestry Road.

Some of the area will be retained in exotic forest.

¹³⁰ Vegetation site management plans are a requirement of the Te Ārai North and South Precinct Plans

¹³¹ Refer to chapter 4 Management Framework – [General and special management zones](#)

Regional Parks Management Plan

Access into this area may be achieved off Forestry Road or through a new entrance off Atkins Road.

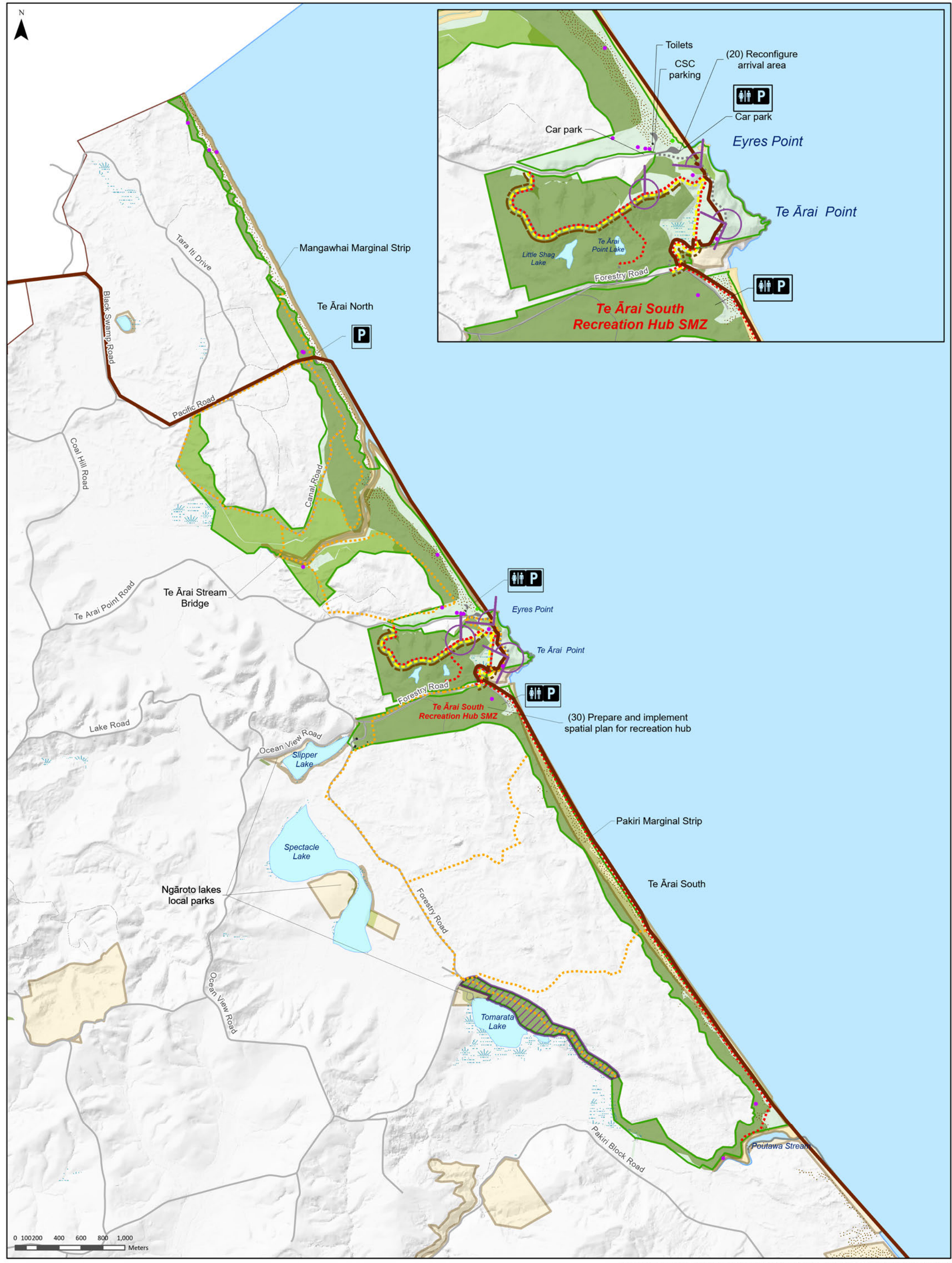
Management intentions

30. Prepare and progressively implement a spatial plan for the Te Ārai South recreation hub that includes the development of:
- a. new arrival areas as you enter the park and at the beach end of Forestry Road providing parking, water supply, toilets and visitor information
 - b. a vehicle-accessible campground with water supply and toilets
 - c. a designated parking area for certified self-contained vehicles
 - d. parking for horse floats
 - e. a network of tracks
 - f. a park depot and ranger station.

9. Key stakeholders

In addition to supporting partnerships with mana whenua, the council also seeks to work with many other community and governmental groups and volunteers in preserving important park taonga and improving parks. Key stakeholders include the regional stakeholders listed in Appendix 4 and:

Key stakeholders	Activity or Interest
Mangawhai Surf Lifesaving Club	Potential satellite operation at Te Ārai
Matakana Coast Trail Trust	Development of connections to local / regional trail networks, including the Pūhoi to Mangawhai Trail
New Zealand Fairy Tern Charitable Trust, the Dotterel Care Group, Shorebird Trust and Birds NZ (Ornithological Society of NZ)	Research, predator control and coastal habitat restoration to protect threatened birdlife. Implementation of wider community conservation plan for predator-free buffer zone from Mangawhai to Pakiri north
Tara Iti Residents Association, Te Ārai South Owners Association, Te Ārai Links, and adjacent landowners	Represent local communities' interests; as landowners, interests in boundary management, park use impacts, pest control
Te Ārai Beach Preservation Society and Save Te Ārai	Retention of the wilderness character and scenic quality of the park, maintenance of access to Te Ārai North, protection of birdlife
Te Ārai North Ltd (TANL) and Te Ārai South Holdings Ltd (TASL)	Management agreements relating to ecological restoration and enhancement and provision of public/private easements through the park





Department of Conservation Position Statement – Auckland Council dog policy and bylaw review 2025

This position statement has been prepared at the request of the Dog Bylaw Review Team, for the Te Ārai Regional Park Dog Access Rules Working Group Hui on 19th July. It sets out the Department's position on prohibiting dogs from Forestry Beach (Te Ārai Beach South) and to allow dogs on the disused quarry at Te Ārai Regional Park.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) prohibits dogs (Controlled Dog Area, No Access pursuant to s.26ZS of the Conservation Act 1987) from the Te Arai Coastline (Mangawhai) Marginal Strip, extending 20m inland from mean high tide level on Forestry Beach between Te Arai Point and Poutawa Stream. This is to protect wildlife from harm caused by dogs, and to avoid users of public conservation land being inconvenienced by dogs. Further, the Crown Foreshore adjacent to this Marginal Strip is also a Controlled Dog Area, No Access.

See: NZ Gazette Notice 2004-In3536, Issue 62, p.1463.

Link: [Conservation Act 1987 - 2004-In3536- New Zealand Gazette](#)

DOC's position is for the prohibition of dogs from Forestry Beach to continue.

Legally protected wildlife on Forestry Beach includes Blue penguins, New Zealand dotterels, Variable Oystercatchers, Fairy terns, Caspian terns, White-fronted terns, Red-billed gulls, New Zealand pipits and species of shag.

DOC does not oppose the proposal to allow dogs on the disused quarry at Te Ārai Regional Park.

DOC reserves the right to modify its views in response to information presented at the Working Group Hui.

Department of Conservation
18 July 2025

Attachment:

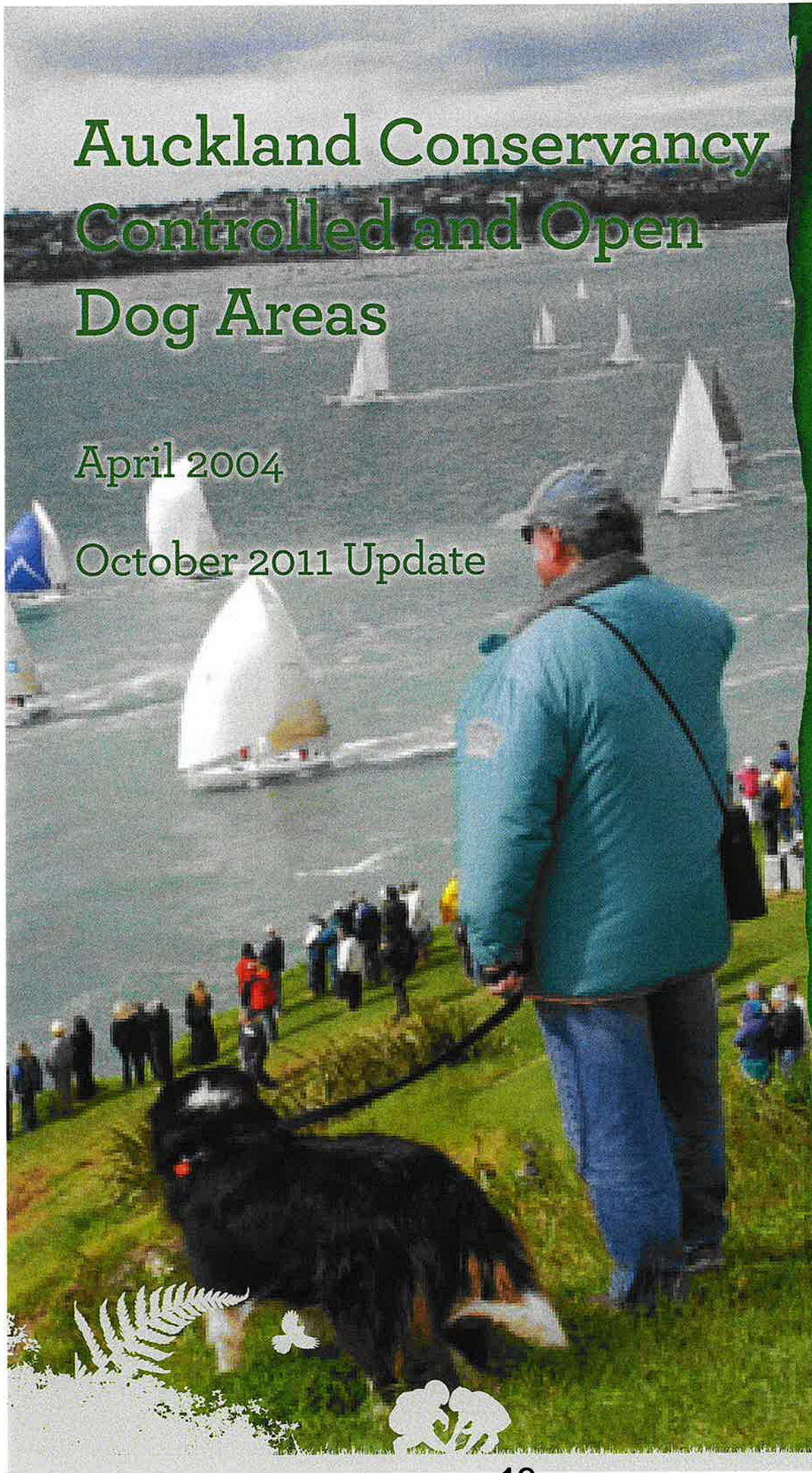
Auckland Conservancy Controlled and Open Dog Areas, April 2004, October 2011 update.



Auckland Conservancy Controlled and Open Dog Areas

April 2004

October 2011 Update



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Computer Register
61B/583.

Mangawhai Marginal Strip 5.24	538	R08	Pt Lot 1 DP 138524 Blks IV Mangawhai and II Pakiri Survey Districts (SO 45626).	21.0000 approx
			Lot 2 DP 138523 Blk IV Mangawhai and II Pakiri Survey Districts.	3.6520
			Lot 3 DP 138523 Blk IV Mangawhai and II Pakiri Survey Districts.	4.6220
			Pt Lot 1 DP 138523 Blk IV Mangawhai and II Pakiri Survey Districts.	
			Pt Lot 1 DP 138523 Blks II, III, VI Pakiri Survey District.	
Medlands Wildlife Management Reserve 5.25	132	T09	Lot 2 DP 138522 Blk VI Pakiri Survey District.	3.5010
			Lots 1 and Part 2 DP 73752 Blk III Tryphena Survey District. <i>New Zealand Gazette</i> 1980 p2267	9.7842
Miranda (Taramaire) Government Purpose Reserve 5.26	296	S12	Pt Lot 3 DP 34407 Blk VI Wharakawa Survey District. <i>New Zealand Gazette</i> 1987 p1627	22.7956
			Sections 4 and 5 Blk VI Wharakawa Survey District (SO 50855). <i>New Zealand Gazette</i> 1983 p4010	8.3100
			Section 7 Blk VI Wharekawa Survey District (SO 53557) Computer Register 42C/605.	0.3176
			Wharekawa IG Section 1 Blk VI Wharekawa Survey District. Computer Register 840/8.	5.1898

within grid references 315E
495N to 342E 495N to 342E
464N to 315E 464N to point of
commencement.

All that Crown foreshore adjacent
to Kaitoke Creek Marginal
Strip shown on NZMS 260 T08
within grid references 315E
495N to 342E 495N to 342E
464N to 315E 464N to point of
commencement.

T09
6.14

All that Crown foreshore adjacent
to Kawau Island Historic
Reserve shown on NZMS 260
R09 within grid references
731E 291N to 754E 291N to
731E 272N to 754E 272N to
point of commencement.

R09
6.15

All that Crown foreshore adjacent
to Kawau Island Scenic
Reserve shown on NZMS 260
R09 within grid references
735E 305N to 738E 305N to
735E 302N to 738E 302N to
point of commencement.

R09
6.16

All that Crown foreshore of
Kermadec Islands Nature
Reserve shown on NZ22
Hydrographic Chart

212

NZ22
Hydro-
graphic
Chart
6.17

All that Crown foreshore of
Kohututara Island Scenic
Reserve shown on NZMS R09
within grid references 710E
233N to 715E 233N to 715E
230N to 710E 230N to point of
commencement.

R09
6.18

All that Crown foreshore of Little
Barrier Nature Reserve shown
on NZMS 260 S08 within grid
references 945E 575N to 010E
575N to 010E 497N to 945E
497N to point of
commencement.

001

S08
6.19

All that Crown foreshore adjacent
to Mangawhai Marginal Strip
shown on NZMS 260 R08
within grid references 560E

R08
6.20

635N to 620E 537N to 620E
635N to 560E 537N to point of
commencement.

All that Crown foreshore of Medlands Beach shown on NZMS 260 T09 within grid references 352E 455N to 361E 455N to 361E 448N to 352E 448N to point of commencement and within grid references 347E 416N to 342E 461N to 347E 435N to 340E 453N to point of commencement.	T09 6.21
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All that Crown foreshore adjacent to Miranda (Taramaire) Government Purpose Reserve shown on NZMS 260 S12 within grid references 141E 509N to 170E 509N to 170E 452N to 141E 452N to point of commencement.	S12 6.22
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All that Crown foreshore adjacent to Miranda Marginal Strip shown on NZMS 260 S12 within grid references 157E 439N to 160E 439N to 160E 437N to 157E 437N to point of commencement.	S12 6.23
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All that Crown foreshore adjacent to Miranda Stream Stewardship Area Strip shown on NZMS 260 S12 within grid references 157E 439N to 160E 439N to 160E 437N to 157E 437N to point of commencement.	S12 6.24
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All that Crown foreshore of Mokohinau Islands Nature Reserve shown on NZMS 260 S07 within grid references 959E 870N to 054E 870N to 959E 815N to 054E 815N to point of commencement.	025 S07 6.25
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All that Crown foreshore of Moturekareka Island Recreation shown on NZMS 260 R09 within grid references 710E 239N to 720E 239N to 720E	R09 6.26
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Department of Conservation Auckland Conservancy Controlled and Open Dog Areas



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Warkworth Great Barrier Island Area office, Rodney District

Mangawhai Marginal Strip

R08538

Schedule I

Map 5:24

Controlled Dog Areas (No Access)

Total area 31ha



This map must be read in conjunction with the NZ Gazette Notice No. 62, 27 May 2004 page 1463

Dog Control Area	BX19 Topo50 Sheet	Public conservation land
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New Zealand Government

1
km

Date of publication Wednesday, 28 September 2011
NZTopo50 base maps courtesy of LINZ



Department of Conservation Auckland Conservancy
Controlled and Open Dog Areas

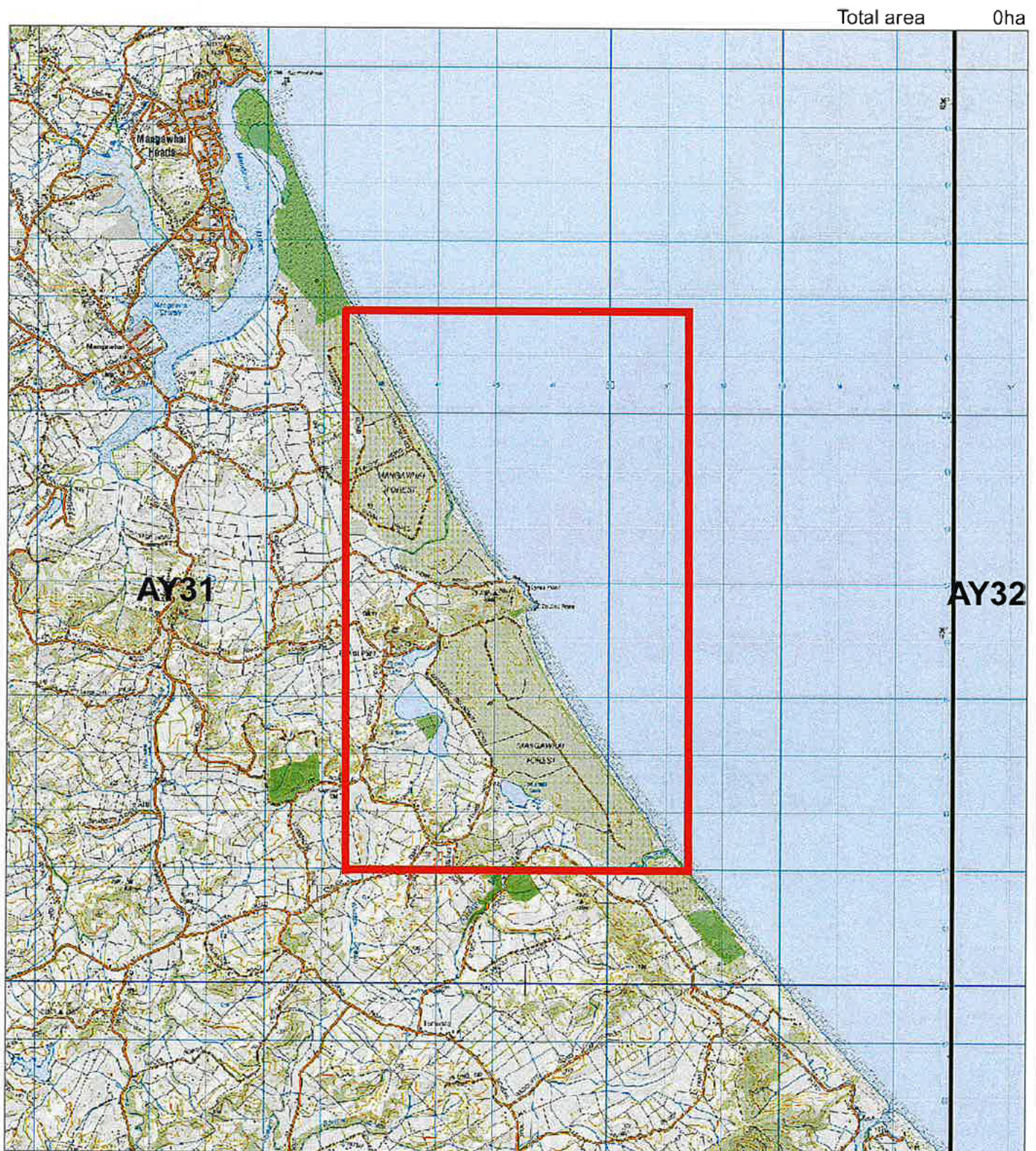


Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Warkworth Great Barrier Island Area office, Rodney District
 Auckland Conservancy Foreshore Areas

Foreshore Schedule II Map 6:20

Controlled Dog Areas (No Access) Foreshore Areas



This map must be read in conjunction with the NZ Gazette Notice No. 62, 27 May 2004 page 1463

Dog Control Area	BX19 Topo50 Sheet	Public conservation land
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New Zealand Government

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17th July 2025

Our position is primarily based upon the following;

- the fact that this decision is not just for today, but looking forward through the 10 year period that the Dog Bylaw Access Rule for Te Arai Regional Park is planned to be in place.
- that Forestry Beach has been used as an off leash dog area for many years with no issues noted in any materials relating to this decision.
- that similar Dog Access to what we propose is allowed at Muriwai & Long Bay Regional Parks.
- there is no other access for local and visiting dog owners that is comparable to what Forestry Beach offers.

We believe that dog access at Te Arai Regional Park should only be on the South side of Te Arai Point, at Forestry Beach. The dis-used quarry area with access from the Te Arai North carpark that is proposed for off leash dog access should be 'dogs prohibited'. The northern side of Te Arai Point as a whole should be 'dogs prohibited' as this will ensure better communication to dog owners and better protect the Te Arai North area.

We believe that dog access should be available as shown on the map presented to the GB meeting by Councillor Sayers. We describe it as the northern end of Forestry Beach. That would be from the South Side of Te Arai Point to a public access path from The Te Arai Links Golf Course that is approximately 3.2 kms in length. The area beyond that south towards Pakiri and Poutawa Stream would be dogs prohibited.

The area we propose for dog access on the northern part of Forestry Beach is also where future plans are focused for developed areas for public access such as carparks, visitor centre, campground facilities etc. This is the area that the majority of people will come to.

Having dog access on regional park beaches, and having it at the busier public areas is already in place. Both Long Bay Regional Park and Muriwai Regional Park have similar dog access rules to what we are proposing.

We thank the Hearing Panel for the opportunity to be part of this Hui.

Nga Mihi

Claire Teirney & Jill Parsons

Dog Friends Auckland Region

From: Tim Armitage [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 16 July 2025 4:52 pm
To: dogsbylawreview <dogsbylawreview@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz>; Carl Morgan [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Te Ārai Regional Park Working Group invitation

Kia ora Dog Policy and Bylaw Review team

At this stage Forest and Bird Warkworth Area branch is not able to attend this session - we have asked for candidates from our committee or other very strongly aligned members (keeping in mind this is not a public session) to come along on Saturday but no luck thus far. If a last minute attendee does emerge we'll let you know.

In the meantime the following is from one of our key members, Alex Flavell-Johnson, who is Conservation Manager at Tara Iti. Their organisation has not been invited by the looks, but Alex has added in some insights that may be of interest to you. As a highly trusted individual we would support Alex's observations given his deep involvement in protection of the specific areas under discussion and review.

Many thanks

Tim Armitage

Chair, Forest and Bird Warkworth Area Branch



From: Alex F-J [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, 16 Jul 2025 at 13:51
Subject: Re: Te Ārai Regional Park Working Group invitation
To: Tim Armitage <[REDACTED]>

Hi Tim,

No we haven't been invited to this. Although council is pushing for this dog ban there doesn't seem to any support for it locally.

The ecological values are around the stream mouth, where a dog ban would be supported by all parties. However the beach itself – there is no high-tide beach for shorebirds to nest/roost on.

Its becoming a bit of an issue up here as huge development is being allowed, but there are less and less places for a growing population to walk dogs.

Personally, I think this dog ban risks creating a anti-conservation community, which shoots us in the foot for the bigger picture..

Alex Flavell-Johnson

Conservation Manager

TARA ITI

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PO Box 18 | Mangawhai 0540

Mobile ██████████

taraiti.com



shorebirdstrust.com

From: Kit Howden <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, 17 July 2025 11:09 am
To: dogsbylawreview <dogsbylawreview@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz>
Cc: Bronwen Turner [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: FW: Te Ārai Regional Park Working Group invitation

Kia ora

Below is a brief statement from the Friends of Regional Parks. I hope it helps with the meeting on Saturday.

Apologies again in not being able to send a representative to the hui

Ngā mihi

Kit Howden for Friends of Regional Parks

Friends of Regional Parks: Position on Dogs in Te Ārai Regional Park

Introduction

The Friends of Regional Parks regret that we are unable to send a representative to this meeting regarding the bylaws for dogs in Te Ārai Regional Park. However, we wish to convey our position on this important issue.

The Unique Role of Regional Parks

Regional parks hold a special place within Auckland's open space system. The management plan for these parks strives to maintain a careful balance between recreation and conservation, with a strong emphasis on protecting the environment for future generations.

Dogs and Recreation in Regional Parks

Recreational activities involving dogs are a popular activity, as recognised in the regional parks' management plan. However, dog use remains a top concern for park rangers, who are tasked with providing education and ensuring the protection of both the environment and park assets. The protection of birds and other wildlife on parkland and beaches is a priority.

Regional vs. Local Park Purposes

We acknowledge that there are limited areas for dog walkers and exercise within the Te Ārai area. Regional parks' primary role is to provide for the regional population, rather than local recreational needs. Nevertheless, it is recognised that residents do require a place to walk and exercise their dogs.

Potential for Compromise

We believe priority should be placed on the Regional Park Management Plan as the main planning system. Bylaws should relate to this. In Te Arai Regional Park there is a need to resolve conflicts and the preparation and implication of a spatial plan over a range of future use needs to take place. [see Sec 8 P 349 of the regional parks management plan]. This will take time. Establishing single uses like dog recreation may compromise future uses and wildlife protection.

However, if community pressure is such that dog recreation is permitted until other uses are established, like camping, it is essential that dogs remain on a lead and additional rangers are provided for education and enforcement. Unfortunately, experience has shown that even where dogs are required to be on leads, some owners allow their dogs off-lead or do not keep them under control, posing threats to both people and wildlife. Allowing dogs on regional park land in this area would require a significant increase in ranger presence for education and enforcement.

Long-Term Considerations and Strategic Approach

Looking ahead, challenges with providing for dogs in parks will increase with population growth, particularly as more dog owners occupy smaller properties therefore needing spaces to recreate and exercise dogs. This will place additional pressure on regional parks. Questions arise regarding the limits of accommodating dogs in finite public open spaces and how informal and other recreational uses will be managed. A stronger, long-term Regional Park Management Plan is needed, as well as a more strategic approach to be taken in the recently approved Parks and Recreation Open Space Strategy.

Conclusion

In summary, the Friends of Regional Parks believe that Te Ārai Regional Park should remain dog-free until a more strategic and comprehensive approach is adopted to address these complex issues.

From: Mark Holliday [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 17 July 2025 8:11 pm
To: dogsbylawreview <dogsbylawreview@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz>
Subject: Position Statement for Te Arai Park Working Group from Love TeArai

Kia ora

I am making a submission on behalf of the local TeArai Residents Society Love TeArai
Love TeArai is opposed to the proposed ban of dogs on Forestry Beach (TeArai South)

With an overwhelming majority of public submissions against the ban and hours of face to face submissions at council against the ban there is obviously a strong public sentiment endorsing the need to provide open space in this location for exercising dogs off leash , houhora , and wellbeing of owners who have traditionally walked along this beach with their dogs for generations.

The Rodney local board and 80% of submitters who identified themselves as Maori ethnicity are also opposed to the dog ban at Forestry.

The local community and visitors alike do not have alternative parks, bushland, walkways, or reserves to exercise their dogs. This entire coastline was until recently unrestricted for dogs. Large scale developments and golf course construction behind the sand dunes has ultimately resulted in the removal of beach access for dogs along TeArai beach north . This means that Forestry is the last remaining area available for dog exercising for over 25km of coastline. It is a local beach vital to the community that has not been a Regional Park destination, rather part of their daily lives.

Evidence within the 659 submissions from people who have regularly walked this beach for years have repeatedly stated that the northern end of this beach supports very little birdlife due probably in part that high tides wash hard up to the dunes providing few nesting opportunities. Dog exercising between the high and low water marks provides an ideal environmental space for this activity as it has virtually no negative effect on the ecosystem of the coastline and other beach users.

There is a very real need to provide a balanced solution to continue dog access to Forestry Beach that would satisfy all the stakeholders.

We support the proposal presented at the Governing Body meeting by Councilor Greg Sayers for the northern end of Forestry Beach/TeArai South to allow off leash dog access on the beach with the southern end towards Poutawa Stream being prohibited

In our view it would be better to have dog access on Forestry beach/TeArai South rather than the proposed off leash area at the disused quarry at TeArai north. This area is both inadequate in size, and unsuitable in location as it is a popular cove for young families in

summer and adjoins the TeArai beach north which is prohibited for dogs. By allowing dog access only at Forestry beach you avoid confusion with dog owners and are thereby in a position to provide adequate signage and management for responsible dog access at that location. This could include having dogs on leash from the car park and onto the beach.

Nga Mihi

Mark Holliday

Love TeArai

Dog bylaw review Te Arai / Forestry beach

The Rodney local board resolved to support dog owners and oppose the proposed dog ban on Forestry Beach (Te Arai Beach South to Pakiri Beach) and associated coastal tracks and carpark to access the beach.

The desired outcome sought at this hearing panel is that dog owners are permitted to continue accessing these areas and in particular Forestry Beach which is a popular place for dogs to socialize.

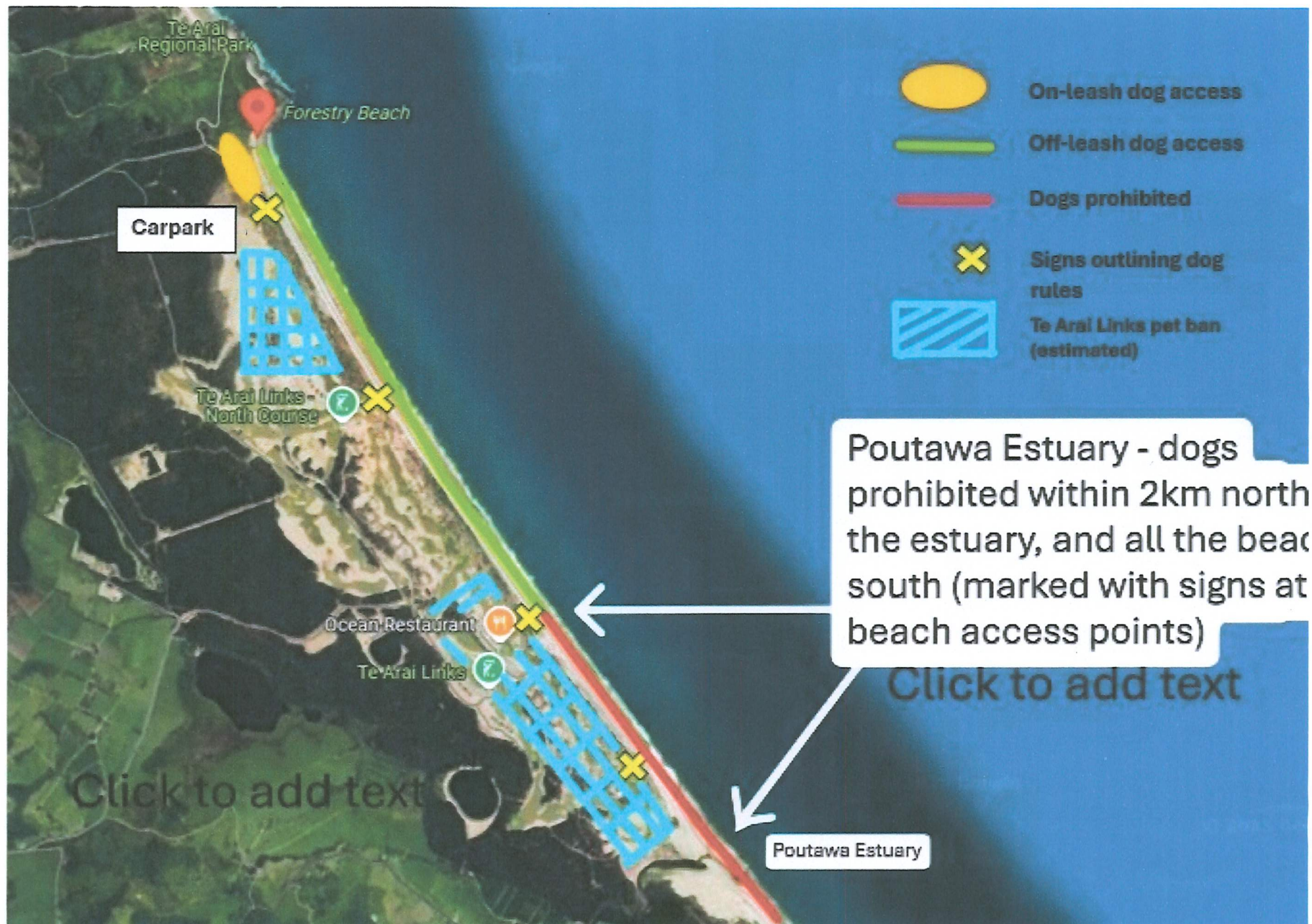
There has been huge public opposition to the proposed dog ban at Forestry Beach.

Allowing dogs and their owners to continue to use the beach for exercising and socializing outdoors and in nature has health and wellbeing benefits for the community.

Councillor Greg Sayers presented what appears to be a very suitable compromise at the governing body meeting and I hope the panel can consider this option.

The official resolution from the Rodney Local Board is:

i) tautoko / support feedback from Rodney submitters opposed to the changes proposed at Pākiri and Te Ārai Regional Parks and suggest input from the local community should take precedence over a “one rule for all” for regional parks



Attachment C

ATTACHMENT C

DECISION-MAKING CRITERIA

Attachment C – Regulatory criteria related to dog policy and bylaw matters of regional significance

A Panel decision to make recommendations on proposed changes to regional parks in the Dog Policy and Bylaw must meet regulatory criteria in the Dog Control Act 1996 and Local Government Act 2002.

The Tables below summarise the regulatory criteria.

Summary of Local Government Act 2002 and Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 criteria for decisions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 82(1) Principles of consultation:<ul style="list-style-type: none">(e) that the views presented to the local authority should be received by the local authority with an open mind and should be given by the local authority, in making a decision, due consideration:(f) that persons who present views to the local authority should have access to a clear record or description of relevant decisions made by the local authority and explanatory material relating to the decisions, which may include, for example, reports relating to the matter that were considered before the decisions were made.• Section 47 LGOIMA: meetings generally open to the public• Section 46 LGOIMA: meetings to be publicly notified (section 2 of LGA and LGOIMA define publicly notified).
Summary of Dog Control Act 1996 criteria for changes to Policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Section 10(4) Policy on Dogs: In amending a policy, council must have regard to—<ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) the need to minimise danger, distress, and nuisance to the community generally; and(b) the need to avoid the inherent danger in allowing dogs to have uncontrolled access to public places that are frequented by children, whether or not the children are accompanied by adults; and(c) the importance of enabling, to the extent that is practicable, the public (including families) to use streets and public amenities without fear of attack or intimidation by dogs; and(d) the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners.

Summary of Policy on Dogs dog access rule policy, principles and criteria

3.2 Provide dog access rules in public places and private ways

3.2.1 Apply the following principles to ensure dog access rules balance the needs of people, dogs, animals, environment and property

- (a) recognise responsible dog owners as legitimate users of public places and that dog access is essential for dog welfare
- (b) integrate, where practicable, dog owners and their dogs with other users of public places (for example public roads, parks and beaches)
- (c) provide opportunities for dog owners to take their dog to public places that are accessible, desirable, and provide diversity of experience for both the dog and owner
- (d) promote safe interaction between dogs and people using public places and private ways to ensure that dogs do not injure, endanger, intimidate or otherwise cause distress to any person, in particular, children and vulnerable adults
- (e) manage the conflict between dogs and protected wildlife and environment (natural habitat)
- (f) manage the conflict between dogs and stock, poultry, domestic animals and property.

3.2.2 Consider dog access on a comprehensive region-wide basis, as well as place-by-place basis

- (a) apply default and general rules in Schedule 1 that apply Auckland-wide to ensure there is a rule for every public place and private way in Auckland
- (b) apply rules for specific places in Auckland in Schedule 2
- (c) apply the following terms and definitions when setting dog access rules ...
- (d) use the following time and season definition when restricting dog access to ensure the safe interaction between people and dogs at popular locations:

10.00am to 5.00pm between 1 December to 1 March, inclusive (summer)

3.2.3 Consider the following before making any change to a dog access rule on a park or beach that would provide more dog access

- (a) the current and future usage patterns and behaviours
- (b) the potential conflicts between dogs and people, animals, environment and property
- (c) the need to ensure the change would not result in any significant risk¹ of conflict between responsible dog owners and their dogs to –
 - (i) person (in particular children or vulnerable adults)
 - (ii) protected wildlife vulnerable to dogs (in particular ground nesting birds)
 - (iii) protected flora vulnerable to dogs (in particular kauri dieback)
 - (iv) stock, poultry or domestic animal
 - (v) environment or property (in particular natural habitat or public amenities).

3.2.4 Consider the following before making any change to a dog access rule on a park or beach that would provide less dog access

- (a) evidence of a significant risk of conflict between responsible dog owners and their dogs and other people, animals, environment or property
- (b) whether there are practicable alternative solutions to address the conflict, such as ways to enable better sharing of the public place.²
- (c) the need to ensure, to the extent that is practicable, that displaced dog owners and their dogs have access to other places or that such access is provided as part of the same decision, including a catchment approach to consider any gaps in dog access provision that may arise.

¹ Significant risk includes, but is not limited to, injury, danger, intimidation or distress to any person; injury, danger or distress to any stock, poultry, domestic animal or protected wildlife; damage or danger to property; or nuisance to people.

² Design and management solutions include fencing, different zones in one place, time-share arrangements, and under control on a leash dog access in relation to considering a change to prohibited dog access.