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## **NOTICE OF MEETING**

**Notice is hereby given that Deliberations for Sandy Point Domain Management Plan to be held in the Council Chamber, First Floor, Civic Theatre, 88 Tay Street, Invercargill on Tuesday 1 April 2025 at 11.00 am**

Cr Soper  
Cr Campbell  
Cr Stewart  
Cr Boyle  
Cr Broad  
Cr Dermody  
Cr D J Ludlow  
Cr Crackett  
Cr Bond  
Mrs P Coote - Kaikaunihera Māori - Awarua

MICHAEL DAY  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

# Deliberations for Sandy Point Domain Management Plan

01 April 2025 11:00 AM

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**MINUTES OF HEARINGS FOR SANDY POINT DOMAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN, HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, FIRST FLOOR, CIVIC THEATRE, 88 TAY STREET, INVERCARGILL ON TUESDAY 25 MARCH 2025 AT 9.00 AM**

**Present:**

- Cr D J Ludlow
- Cr Soper
- Cr Campbell
- Cr Boyle (via Zoom)
- Cr Broad
- Cr Dermody
- Cr Crackett
- Cr Bond
- Mrs P Coote – Kaikaunihera Māori – Awarua

**In Attendance:**

- Mr R Capil – Group Manager – Community Spaces and Places
- Mr M Morris – Manager – Governance and Legal
- Ms C Rain – Manager – Parks and Recreation
- Ms C Horton - Senior Open Spaces Planner
- Mrs L Cook – Executive Support

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## **1. Apologies**

Cr Stewart, and Cr Crackett for lateness

Moved Cr Ludlow, seconded Cr Soper and **RESOLVED** that the apologies be accepted.

## **2. Declaration of Interest**

Cr Bond noted she was a Facebook group member to Ōreti Sands Group. She also knew and was friends with Sarah Dowey. There was a text message from around six months ago relating to an issue out in Sandy Point but there had not been any correspondence during the consultation and Cr Bond would stay open minded during the hearings and deliberation process.

## **3. Sandy Point Domain Draft Reserve Management Plan Stage Two Hearings A5800008**

Moved Cr Soper, seconded Cr Broad and **RESOLVED** that the Hearings Panel:

1. Receives the report “Sandy Point Domain Draft Reserve Management Plan Stage Two Hearings”.
2. Receives submissions and the summary of submissions through the stage two public notification process.
3. Receives late submissions from Environment Southland and Te Ao Mārama Inc.

4. Note the hearings schedule with the following submitters to be heard:

Hearing slot	Sub #	Name	Time
	#	<i>Meeting Opened</i>	9.00
1	29	Lloyd Esler	9.10
		<b>Break</b>	
2	45	Marcus Roy	9.30
3	37	Dallas Bradley	9.40
4	4	Sarah Dowie	9.50
5	30	Brian Rowe	10.00
		<b>Break</b>	
6	39	Jordon Triall	10.20
7	1 & 8	Sue Osborne	10.30
8	3	Sue Garland	10.40
		<b>Lunch Break</b>	
9	31	Christine Smith	12:10
10	25	Kath and Brian McDonagh	12:20
11	23	Edwin Haswell Wood	12:30
12	26	Kerry Hapuku and Bob McMurdo <b>Via Zoom</b>	12:40
13	32	Jeff Smith	12:50

5. Confirms any specific feedback from the Hearings Panel it wishes to be included in the Sandy Point Domain Reserve Management Plan report to be considered by the Community Wellbeing and Regulatory Committee on 6 May 2025.

### 3.1 Hearings Slot 1 - Submission 29 – Lloyd Esler

A5769343

Mr Esler was supportive and liked that Council were taking great interest. He had many day trips and school trips out to Sandy Point. He liked doing the walks out at Sandy Point and was a frequent user.

Mr Esler felt the present signage was rough, some roads appeared dodgy and if it was going to be a public road it needed to be maintained. There was a vandalism and social behaviour issue out there and he supported extended patrols and the use of advanced technology of cameras or fencing off the more venerable areas.

Mr Esler talked about the viewing of dark skies and the opportunities this held.

Mr Esler supported biodiversity, noting there was no easy way to do a large-scale restoration and working away at this quietly seemed to be the only way.

Fire risk was of concern to Mr Esler, there was no longer any monsoon ponds which would be utilised in the event of a fire and he questioned if there was a plan for firefighting in the area.

There was a lack of bibliography in the document and a lack of references.

A query was raised around volunteer rangers and how this would work. Mr Esler said prior to being in Invercargill he was in Dunedin and he volunteered for the City Council. There was basic training given for the community to do this. If there was a ranger who volunteered this could deter the vandalism.

### **3.2 Hearings Slot 2 - Submission 45 – Marcus Roy** A5763485

Mr Roy represented the Mountain Bike Club. There were 500 members who paid for privilege to be a part of the club with a huge number of those members using the tracks in Bluff and Sandy Point. There was approximately 15 km of trail out in Sandy Point.

Mr Roy said the eco park concept and specifically around indigenous plantings for diversity and enhancement was supported. He felt more work could be done to promote shelter belts and amenities planting. There were lots of natives going in on the left hand side as you went into Sandy Point, and once the trees were established it would be great to see new paths and mountain bike trails established.

A change would be beneficial to the Management Plan to capture the competitive offerings with the likes of mountain biking club, Teretonga and the Rowing Club and the drawing of people to such clubs.

There was a suggestion within the submission around designated areas for different activity for conflict of horse riding, mountain bikers and dog walkers. Along with the management of anti-social behaviour.

A query was raised around the impact of exercising dogs off or on leash and horse riding with mountain biker. Mr Roy confirmed generally it was not too much of an issue as long as there was respect of each other's spaces. An additional query was raised around improved signage, and Mr Roy felt this would be a key component.

A query was raised around track count of how many people would use the track. Mr Roy confirmed there was none in Sandy Point but they hold an 8 hour event in Sandy Point which had a massive amount of kilometres cycled. It was noted track counts would be useful data.

A query was raised around the benefits of a recreational loop around Sandy Point and this was around broadening the approach. Some of the tracks were windier and off putting for younger riders. A grade 2 of track around the Sandy Point Reserve would be beneficial.

It was noted Queenstown and Rotorua had done a study around what economical value mountain biking brought.

### **3.3 Hearings Slot 3 - Submission 37 – Dallas Bradley**

A5769367

Mr Bradley noted around where he resided and that the purpose of such was to live close to Sandy Point. He was also a member of the Powerboat Club.

Mr Bradley noted the confusion around the Masterplan, Management Plan and Implementation Plan. Referring to the Masterplan vision, Mr Bradley noted that in the 10 year plan the sealed road work was in there. There was a visitor hub shown on the 10-year plan, with an unsealed road that was unlikely, so why keep it on the Plan.

The Masterplan felt meaningless. There was talk of the closure of Dunns Road, this was out of scope as it was talking about the road not Sandy Point itself. Mr Bradley questioned if the Masterplan would be altered.

Mr Bradley noted it was good to see Council was taking part in pest management.

Mr Bradley said there was a need for integrated management, and he was pleased to see a specific statement about being out of scope. Some out of scope area were not managed by Council but there were parts of Ōreti beach which were still managed by Council. There was an MOU set out between agencies to stop buck passing, it says it guides the activity, it just sets out who was responsible for what. There was lack on integrated management between agency and across agency and a lack of understanding. An example was the boat ramp, there was integrated management issue because it crossed the domain and the river. It was noted the need for a good process around understanding another agency's prospect and understanding.

Mr Bradley questioned why there was an Implementation Plan when there was not a finalised Management Plan. The referring to the Masterplan in the Management Plan made the Mr Bradley uncomfortable.

It was noted the Masterplan would feed down into a good Management Plan, beyond 10 years was really just a vision.

A query was raised around Integrated Management and how the joined-up governance of this would work. Mr Bradley felt there needed to be some sort of committee. Staff transitioning had an impact on this approach. It was noted around relationships being important and it being active and ongoing.

### **3.4 Hearings Slot 4 - Submission 4 – Sarah Dowie**

A5769395

Ms Dowie expressed her love for animals and in particular, dogs.

Ms Dowie had heard the status of dog walking was elevated, but she was not certain.

Ms Dowie felt dog walking should be a stand-alone activity. Elevated on the basis around the amount of dog owners in Southland, the therapeutic benefits and mental health benefits of dog walker.

Ms Dowie supported providing a space where larger dogs could be off leash. Having dog walking areas in the Management Plan could alleviate the issue of conflict between another group. It should be detailed on what it was permissible.

She supported the amendment to noted dog walking as standalone activity and where it was permissible.

It was noted Sandy Point as a great location for off leash but noted she would not take a dog on mountain bike track or to a kids playground for safety reasons.

### **3.5 Hearings Slot 5 - Submission 30 – Brian Rowe**

A576341

Mr Rowe noted he was the administrator for the Ōreti Sands User Group which had 1,400 users. Over 259 people asked to be represented by Mr Rowe at the hearing and through his submission.

Mr Rowe noted when referring to the Management Plan section 8.1.1.2 subclause 2 and 3 stated "to permit horse-riding and mountain biking within the domain of designated areas".

Mr Rowe supported the use of Ōreti Sands Golf club as a hub and dog off leash area. He noted that disk golf had been tried to be set up and a tournament played in 2021 but this was overtaken by vegetation.

Mr Rowe supported tracks and trails be widen to be wide enough to fit two passing people and have the vegetation managed. The friends of Ōreti Sands group could tidy the rest up.

A query was raised around the development of the old golf course with tracks suitable for prams and wide enough for two people to walk. This would take a lot of investment. There were 54 play areas in Invercargill, and the question was asked how do Council fund the additional investment and were they duplicating resources. When the grass was mowed you could fit people side by side. This could be self-funded through bailage. There was 1,600 plus bails taken off it that could be used as funding. It was noted the quality of bailage may not be the greatest. Ōreti Sands would take two years to get back to quality. It would not be feed quality bailage at the moment and so therefore would yield less income.

A query was raised around disk golf opportunities at Queen Park and was there a preference to using a site at Ōreti Sands. Disk golf want a champion level course which was played on around six times a year.

### **3.6 Hearings Slot 6 - Submission 39 – Jordon Traill**

A5769361

Mr Traill noted he led the School of Environmental Management at SIT. There was lots of research done at Sandy Point Domain. Ecologically there were lots of great things happening at Sandy Point around biodiversity management.

He noted a species which he believed was misidentified and was endangered and not present at Sandy Point.

Mr Traill had been studying the eco system as it was unusual, a lot of those similar which remain in New Zealand were on private land. He had presented talks on this eco system nationally and internationally. The tussock area had been there for 80 years and it had been present for a long time, it was an old growth grass. Through his research there was a good functioning eco system, for birds which were not found anywhere else in the domain. Under the Draft Management Plan it stated this area was restored for plant, flax and cabbage tree species. It was a red tussock area and should be management as such – it would be remiss to have this excluded and should not be anything else other than red tussock.

A query was raised around the biodiversity and was it possible to manage them within restricted areas and give them protection. It was noted from Mr Traill that could isolate an ecosystem. You could say this was red tussock and manage it as such.

### **3.7 Hearings Slot 7 - Submission 1– Sue Osbourne and Submission 8 – Sue Osbourne**

A5769393, A57969403

Ms Osbourne said she was a regular visitor to Sandy Point. She felt disillusioned by council management, the walks, river side tracks and picnic area had gone to "rack and ruin". The sheltered trees were demolished and picnic areas destroyed. She felt the new natives would cecum to salt ridden wind. She was disappointed with the removal of the shelter around the playground which increased winds and made it unpleasant.

It was noted around the Waka Ama leasing the boating ramp area, the access had now been restricted to this prime site for boaties, water skiers and jet skiers. There was now grass to the top of the picnic tables and the people barred from entering. Council was missing an opportunity to develop this to a boating and picnic area with great amenities for running water, BBQ, and toilets.

A query was raised around the boat ramp, and was Ms Osbourne aware of the many incidents of vandalism. She confirmed she was aware and it needed more policing and felt it should be opened up, with collaboration with Waka Ama for a paid barrier for boats.

It was noted around the significance to Iwi that this area was.

Note: Cr Crackett joined the meeting at 10.34 am.

### **3.8 Hearings Slot 8 - Submission 3 – Julie Smellie on behalf of Sue Garland**

A5769399

Ms J Smellie was in attendance in Ms S Garlands absence. Ms Smellie noted the importance of retaining the horse trekking area and to her knowledge was the only public horse-riding area in Invercargill. The horse riding area needed to be separate to the mountain bikers. There were recent reports of motorcycles being used, however there was very little signage to show this was not permitted.



Ms Smellie proposed the club fund the erection of signage. The club was happy to fund these signs, and to remind Council this was well used and loved area for the horse community.

A query was raised around the safety of horses, dogs, bikers and questioned what was the concern for horse riders. It was noted if you were not a horse rider you may not understand to health and safety implication of a horse being given an unexpected fright.

A query was raised around trials being restricted, and it was noted they were not currently restricted, but colour coded tracks would be helpful with a map showing where each activity was prohibited.

A query was raised around restriction potentially being available to horse riders at particular times. Ms Smellie felt this would be complicated because the riders came from far and wide so it could be complex to restrict it.

A query was raised around the time of year horse riders use the track, i.e. it could be limited in winter months to reduce track damage, or it could be seasonal. It was noted there was nothing the horses do damage wise as it was sandy ground.

### **3.09 Hearings Slot 9 - Submission 31 – Christine Smith**

A5769347

Ms Smith noted the recreation reserves were for the recreation, health and wellbeing. She had a copy of the Draft Reserve Management Plan with 53 of the 83 pages being flagged with various different things, one of them being all the coloured maps were undersized and made property undervalued. The language was unclear, contradictory, not transparent, inaccurate, questionable and lacked rationale.

Ms Smith noted no rationale was given around no motorised vehicles and was contradictory to the top of the page which mentioned motorised vehicles.

Ms Smith noted around the terms of "Council" and "Parks and Recreation".

Ms Smith did not support open areas being made into native planting. She also did not support low mow, as it looked wild, untidy and uncared for and caused more anti-social behaviour and fire risk.

Ms Smith supported reinstatement of the park ranger, planation, and the removal of the barrier to Daffodil Bay, as well as supporting education displays.

Ms Smith felt it was an unsatisfactory Management Plan.

### **3.10 Hearings Slot 10 - Submission 25 – Kath and Brian McDonough**

A5769333

Ms McDonough felt the draft did not refer to the policy of acquisition of Coopers Creek residents with no consultation around the acquisition policy being deleted was held and

she did not support this position. Ms McDonough felt Parks and Recreation operate from an ideological base regardless of the rights of the people.

Ms McDonough believed that the village of Cooper Creek should be able to live in perpetuity, under the provision of the Reserves Act 1977 s44 1E under the 10-year Management Plan to permit the existence of the village, this would eliminate the need to revoke land status. This would be seen as a win win outcome.

Ms McDonough had concerns of Sandy Point upkeep grass areas, tracks, and low mow have made it scruffy, overgrown and a health and safety risk. There was concern around summer months and the escalated risk of fire to the domain. There was nothing in the Draft Management Plan around fire contingency.

Ms McDonough noted minutes from 1991.

Ms McDonough did not support road restriction and the right of choice was being diminished. She did not support a new loop road.

It was noted around the history, heritage and culture of the domain but Coppers Creek had been left out of this.

A query was raised around the ranger, and their opinion on a volunteer ranger. They would support the reinstatement of a full-time ranger. It would depend on how this would work around hours or would it be split over multiple volunteers. It would come down to a timeframe.

### **3.11 Hearings Slot 11 - Submission 23 – Edwin Haswell Wood**

A569335

Mr Wood noted he had a lease at Pacific Ave for around 40 years, this was a lease and not a License to Occupy. There had been observations of discussions between Council and Coopers Creek and Mr Wood had seen in the media. He had not been a part of the consultation or conversation and was concerned around the affects this may have.

Mr Wood showed supports for his friends at Cooper Creek and the security of better tenure and clarity around lease rental fee.

In the Reserves Act, rental accommodation on reserve land was an unauthorised activity. There was an exception, as the previous submitter stated, if those provisions were allowed for in the Management Plan around the permitted activity, then it would be something to consider.

Mr Wood took on his lease in 1986 and it was changed to a domain in 1992. His lease was still current and it seemed unfair to burden him with provisions when his lease was still current. Mr Wood believed going forward there could be a basis of 21-year lease and 7 years right to renewal for perpetuity or freehold. It was noted that the previous Mayor from 1942-1950, had built a holiday home in Dunns Crescent. It was his goal to have a beach resort initiative. There were already residential properties at Oki Street. There was a lot of housing which bordered on reserve land. Mr Wood wondered what a developer would think of that land if it was given freehold title. Noted around the support to freehold more land to a developer. Noted around Council taking consideration of this.

Mr Wood supported the improvement of the entry and gateway to the iconic beach.

It was noted around coastal erosion limiting developers from building here.

### **3.12 Hearings Slot 12 - Submission 26 - Kerry Hapuku and Bob McMurdo**

A5769349

Ms Hapuku felt that if it was not broken the why fix it, and that Sandy Point was a jewel in the crown for everyone to enjoy. She did not support the use of consultants who were not locals.

Ms Hapuku felt that the Coppers Creek tenure options of satisfaction to the residence had not been considered. The Council had previously acknowledged the residents do better than harm. She questioned why Council had not followed their own legal advice.

It was noted the residents act as honorary rangers. The Chair acknowledged the benefits of having a ranger.

A query was raised around anti-social behaviour and what was the most concerning to them. Ms Hapuku confirmed lighting fires were the biggest concern and the welfare of other people out there.

### **3.13 Hearings Slot 13 - Submission 32 – Jeff Smith**

A5769353

Mr Smith said general policies for Reserve Management Plan state "Occupation agreements are said to be a common form on a long-term basis."

It was noted that a restriction was a closure in terms of roading.

Mr Smith supported "non-motorised vehicle access" through the domain having a defined meaning in the Management Plan.

Mr Smith felt there was contradictory comments throughout the Management Plan and one example was that the Plan stated forestry was both excellent and terrible.

It was noted around horse riders using every trail even if it was noted they were not permitted, there was a need to separate this out.

A query was raised around the onsite ranger and questioned Mr Smith's thoughts on this. He confirmed rangers did not hold much power and a volunteer ranger would hold even less. The quality of the domain was the main reason for the ranger desire. Visiting the site was not the same as being out there all the time.

A query was raised noting Mr Smith's written submission having pest control redaction and was it realistic to achieve reduction of pests entirely. Mr Smith confirmed pest control fencing for certain areas could be used.

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 12.58 pm.

# SANDY POINT DOMAIN DRAFT RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN STAGE TWO DELIBERATIONS

To:	Hearings Panel
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 1 April 2025
From:	Cassie Horton – Senior Open Spaces Planner
Approved:	Rex Capil - Group Manager - Community Spaces and Places
Approved Date:	26 March 2025
Open Agenda:	Yes
Public Excluded Agenda:	No

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## Purpose and Summary

The purpose of the report is to deliberate and provide feedback following the submissions held on 25 March 2025, for staff to incorporate into a report that will be presented to the Community Wellbeing and Regulatory Committee on 6 May 2025.

## Recommendations

That the Hearings Panel:

1. Receives the report “Sandy Point Domain Draft Reserve Management Plan Stage Two Deliberations”.
2. Confirms any specific feedback it wishes to be included in the Sandy Point Domain Reserve Management Plan report to be considered by the Community Wellbeing and Regulatory Committee on 6 May 2025.

## Background

The Reserves Act 1977 (the Act) requires the development of reserve management plans to establish the desired mix of use, and protection for reserves, and to provide the community with certainty about the function and management of each reserve. With stage one consultation inviting people to have their say on what they would like to see included in the Plan completed and presented to Council, stage two could then commence.

Council advertised for public comments and submissions from 9 November 2024 – 31 January 2025 (minimum two-month period) as required under Section 41(6) of the Act, prior to producing the Plan for Council consideration. Stage two consultation focussed on seeking feedback on the Plan, draft Implementation Plan and Noise Management Plan. Once Council

is satisfied with the Plan, it will be sent to the Department of Conservation for approval, as a delegate of the Minister of Conservation.

Following completion of the stage two consultation, submissions have been considered for inclusion within the Plan and Implementation Plan.

Submissions were received (51 in total) via Let's Talk and written submissions via email and handed into boxes located at Invercargill Public Library and Te Hīnaki - Civic Administration Building.

Hearings are required as per Section 41 (6) (d) which states:

*"before approving the management plan, or, as the case may require, recommending the management plan to the Minister for his or her approval, give every person or organisation who or which, in lodging any objection or making any comments under paragraph (a) or paragraph (b), asked to be heard in support of his or her or its objection or comments, a reasonable opportunity of appearing before the administering body or a committee thereof or a person nominated by the administering body in support of his or her or its objection or comments."*

## Summary of Stage Two Submissions

Following completion of the Masterplan and stage one of the Plan process, stage two consultation (9 November 2024 – 31 January 2025) enabled the community to submit on three related documents, the Plan, draft Implementation Plan and Noise Management Plan.

Public Notice was given (9 November 2024 and 25 January 2025) in compliance with Section 119 of the Act, calling for persons or organisations interested to lodge their submissions on the draft plan before a specified date, being no less than two months after the publication of the notice and providing the opportunity to be heard (section 41 (6)(d)). Upon giving notice, the Plan was sent to the Commissioner requesting feedback (section 41 (6) (aa)).

Engagement methods included connecting with Mana Whenua and Department of Conservation, public notices posted via Southland Times, Let's Talk, Digi Slides and submission forms at Council buildings, direct emails to clubs and organisations, stage one submitters, and letter drops to licence holders has been undertaken, and signage

Submitters represented:

- Agencies and organisations – Te Ao Mārama and Waihopai Rūnaka, Environment Southland, Active Southland, CCS Disability Action, Fire and Emergency New Zealand, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, The Southland Conservation Board.
- Clubs – Southland Mountain Bike Club, Foveaux Riding Club, Disc Golf South, Southland Pony Club, Southland Astronomical Society, Te Piritahi a Rua Waka Ama Association (Te Tomairangi and Nga Hau e Wha marae).
- Licence Holders (Coopers Creek and Pacific Avenue crib site owners).
- Informal Groups - Ōreti Sands User Group, walking group.

### Reserve Management Plan Submission Feedback

General feedback was positive and submitters appreciate having a great space to visit. Feedback on key activities were mentioned, particularly disc golf, horse riding and dog walking, with other activities including mountain biking, waka ama and rodeo.

High Level topics of Engagement:

- Six submitters reported messages of support in general on the Plan.
- 15 submitters value using the keep horse trekking area at the south and would like to continue this, with some requesting provision of associated infrastructure.
- Six submitters noted concerns about horse and rider safety being impacted by other users in a multi-use space. Three submitters specifically noted concerns with dogs off leads and motorbikes.
- Four submitted support for Ōreti Links as a multi-use hub space, with six (one whom was supported by 259 people) saw dog walking as an important recreational activity, suggesting Ōreti Links be known as a premier dog park. Three submissions noted the need for disc golf championship course and one mentioned extending mountain bike trails to this area. The importance of dark skies was also mentioned by two submitters.
- Ten submitters provided information on ecological enhancements, with two specifically including shelter, six including biodiversity (e.g. indigenous plants) and three specifically supporting forestry. One submitter also mentioned erosion concerns. Two submitters mentioned fire risks to be considered.
- Submitters generally addressed regulatory functions such as rubbish, speed, vandalism, pest plants, motorised vehicles and general maintenance. Specifically, seven submitters addressed mowing issues and plants of concern.
- Vehicle access was raised by seven submitters objecting restricted access or closing roads. Two specifically spoke about the loop road proposal, which is not being considered within this Plan.
- Five submitters mentioned support for a visitor centre or ensuring ICC owned buildings are fit for purpose.
- Feedback was received from six submitters on the proposed tenure and historic relevance to residential areas, with two requesting freehold or inclusion in the Plan as being allowed to exist, two support the proposed policy 9.3.2(11), one supports 3.2.3.2, and one suggests status quo.

Reponses to submissions are noted in the summary of submissions. Proposed changes to the reserve management plan based on the submissions and hearings will include:

- 1.0 Introduction - add dog walking to list of opportunities in paragraph 2
- 1.5.1.4 Climate Change – impacts of fire risks.
- 1.5.1.5 Lagoons – updating vegetation based on submission 039.
- 1.5.1.10.4 Birds – correct assumption on fernbird residing – it should be flax land not tussock land.
- 2.5 add dog walking to list of recreation in paragraph 4.
- 3.2.3.1 Note #24 Southland Mountain Bike Club and #25 Southland Sled Dog Association as spaces not leased.

- 6.3 Cultural and Heritage Values – incorporate suggestions raised by HNZPT regarding protection and management and permission must be sought prior to modification, damage or destruction of any site.
- 8.2.3.2.3 change to dusk until dawn.
- 8.2/4/2 Add emergency services to 8.2.4.2.5 and 8.2.4.2.7.
- 10.4 Place Names – remove last paragraph p97 beginning with “not one of these appears on any earlier map....”.

### **Summary of Verbal Submissions Held at Hearings Panel**

At a hearings panel held on 25 March 2025, 13 spoke to their submissions in person (as listed in recommendation 4).

Key points expressed as noted in submissions included:

- Supporting efforts to restore biodiversity, including pest management, with concerns for ensuring shelter and fire risks are addressed. Significance of Silver Lagoon as a unique wetland ecosystem was raised.
- Forestry sites and their relevance in recreational settings.
- Anti-social behaviour and opportunities to address were discussed including ranger and voluntary ranger roles.
- Integrated Management opportunities across multiple agencies.
- Enabling longevity of recreation activities – designated spaces and shared spaces (e.g. equestrian, mountain biking, dog walking, disc golf, dark skies) and addressing safety concerns.
- The proposed tenure and historic relevance of residential areas was raised, requesting freehold or inclusion in the Plan as being allowed to exist.
- Queries on the Masterplan and its precedence to the Plan
- Restrictions to access of boat ramps
- Concern over proposed restricted access/closure of road to southern end of reserve.
- Wayfinding and signage supported as a means to educate and celebrate history and information of the Domain.

### **Implementation Plan Submission Feedback**

The draft implementation plan is essentially an action plan to implement the Masterplan and the Plan and will be managed as a separate document. Of the 51 responses, 47% responded with comments on the draft Implementation Plan.

Key points raised were similar to feedback on the Plan, predominately horse riding, safety, facility support and access.

In response to submissions the following changes are proposed to the Implementation Plan:

- The sealed loop road action will be removed as this is not planned within the ten-year timeframe, however the idea will be assessed operationally with appropriate emergency service organisations to understand feasibility and costs.
- Other key actions will incorporate:
  - ICC will collaborate with Emergency Services as Stakeholders. Dog walkers as stakeholders in the Ōreti Links Group.

- Making sure fire plan requirements are covered (also including leases and licence holders).
- Signage designating use.
- Investigating alternative revenue streams.
- Ecological enhancement and pest management work.
- Investigating the development of climate change adaptation plan.
- Investigating long term management plan to manage hazardous activities.

Parks and Recreation will also work with Animal Services and Strategy and Policy Team when the Dog Bylaw and Policy is up for review to establish regulations on dogs at Sandy Point Domain.

There was no feedback received on the Noise Management Plan. This will need to be reviewed and updated as a separate document.

Other general responses raised mentioned the high volume of horse riders that use Sandy Point Domain, noting concern regarding rubbish and vandalism that occurs and ensuring shelter is maintained for future users. Ōreti Links messaging is also reinforced, noting this area is valued for dog walking and disc golf.

## **Next Steps**

This Panel will deliberate on the submissions to ensure recommendations on the Plan changes are able to be considered by the Community Wellbeing and Regulatory Committee.

The Community Wellbeing and Regulatory Committee is scheduled to receive the Sandy Point Domain Reserve Management Plan on 6 May 2025 with recommendations for decisions to Council for consideration, with any potential changes. The Committee will also receive the Implementation Plan at this meeting.

Council will then have the opportunity to approve the Sandy Point Domain Reserve Management Plan on 27 May 2025 on recommendation from the Community Wellbeing and Regulatory Committee and approve any changes recommended by the Committee. Then the Reserve Management Plan will be sent to the Department of Conservation for approval, as a delegate of the Minister of Conservation.