



# Ohau River Reserves Management Plan

October 2017

## *Executive Summary*

The Ohau River is over 20km in length and flows through the Horowhenua District, from the Tararua Ranges to the Tasman Sea. There are a number of reserves located along the eastern section of the Ohau River (from Gladstone Road to State Highway 1). This combined reserve management plan covers these reserves, which includes Gladstone Reserve, Kimberley Reserve, Kirkcaldies Reserve, an access way off Muhunoa East Road and Parikawau Reserve. These reserves are referred to as the 'Ohau River Reserves'.

Under section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977, Horowhenua District Council (Council) is required to prepare and review reserve management plans for each of the reserves it owns or manages/controls. The existing reserve management plan for the Ohau River Reserves is now quite out-of-date as it was originally developed in 1993 and last reviewed in 2000. Council is in the process of reviewing a number of its reserve management plans including this one, to ensure that these plans accurately reflect the Council's current, and desired, management of its reserves, taking into account planned or potential future development.

This document is a combined reserve management plan for the Ohau River Reserves.

Informal consultation on the Ohau River Reserves was undertaken with key stakeholders and the wider community in May 2016. The feedback received helped to inform the development of the Draft Ohau River Reserves Management Plan.

Formal public consultation on the Draft Ohau River Reserves Management Plan commenced on 13 January 2017 and closed 17 March 2017. Council received nine submissions on the Draft Plan.

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# 1. Background

## 1.1. What is a Reserve Management Plan?

A reserve management plan is a document prepared under the Reserves Act 1977. It contains objectives, policies and actions relating to the use, management and future development of a reserve.

All reserves that have been gazetted and classified as reserves under the Reserves Act 1977 (the Act), require a reserve management plan in accordance with section 41(1) of the Act. Once prepared and adopted, reserve management plans must be kept under continuous review to address new issues and opportunities as they arise for each reserve (section 41(4)).

Reserve management plans act as a guide for Council Officers in making both day-to-day and long-term decisions about how reserves and open spaces under Council's ownership or control are to be used, managed and developed.

## 1.2. Relationship with the Parks and Reserves General Policy Document

The Parks and Reserves General Policy Document (adopted April 2016) applies to all parks and reserves in the Horowhenua District which are owned and/or administered by Horowhenua District Council (Council), and managed by Council's Parks and Property Team.

The majority these parks and reserves are gazetted as reserve and classified under the Act. However, there are also a number of areas of open space, recognised and managed by Council as reserve land, but which currently do not hold formal reserve status under the Act.

The Parks and Reserves General Policy Document (the General Policy Document) provides objectives, policies and actions for management issues which are common throughout the majority of Council managed reserves (whether formally gazetted or not). This document allows Council to adopt a consistent approach to the management of all reserves in a cost and time efficient way.

The objectives, policies and actions outlined in this Reserve Management Plan are specific to Gladstone Reserve, Kimberley Reserve, Kirkcaldies Reserve, an access way off Muhunoa East Road and Parikawau Reserve. These objectives, policies and actions are tailored to the specific issues or opportunities for these reserves.

It should be noted that the site specific management provisions outlined in this Reserve Management Plan take precedence over the General Policy Document's provisions where they relate to the same issue. Where this Reserve Management Plan is silent on an issue then the provisions of the General Policy Document apply. The General Policy Document includes a decision making process which should be followed when a request is made and it is not covered by either the site specific Reserve Management Plan or the General Policy Document.

### 1.3. Overview of Statutory Context

Reserve management plans are prepared and reviewed in accordance with the requirements of the Reserves Act 1977. However, there are a number of other pieces of national legislation as well as plans, strategies and regulations at the regional and local level that need to be considered when preparing reserve management plans.

The below diagram identifies the key statutes, plans, strategies and regulations that Council should also consider when preparing or reviewing its reserve management plans.

Further explanation about the key statutes, plans, strategies and regulations and how they are relevant to reserve management plans is provided in Council's Parks and Reserves General Policy Document.

It is important to note that the statutes, plans, strategies and regulations identified in the below diagram are not an exhaustive list, for instance there are other statutes that may also be relevant (e.g. Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014). Also highlighted by this diagram are the different roles and functions that Council has in relation to the management of parks, reserves and open space.

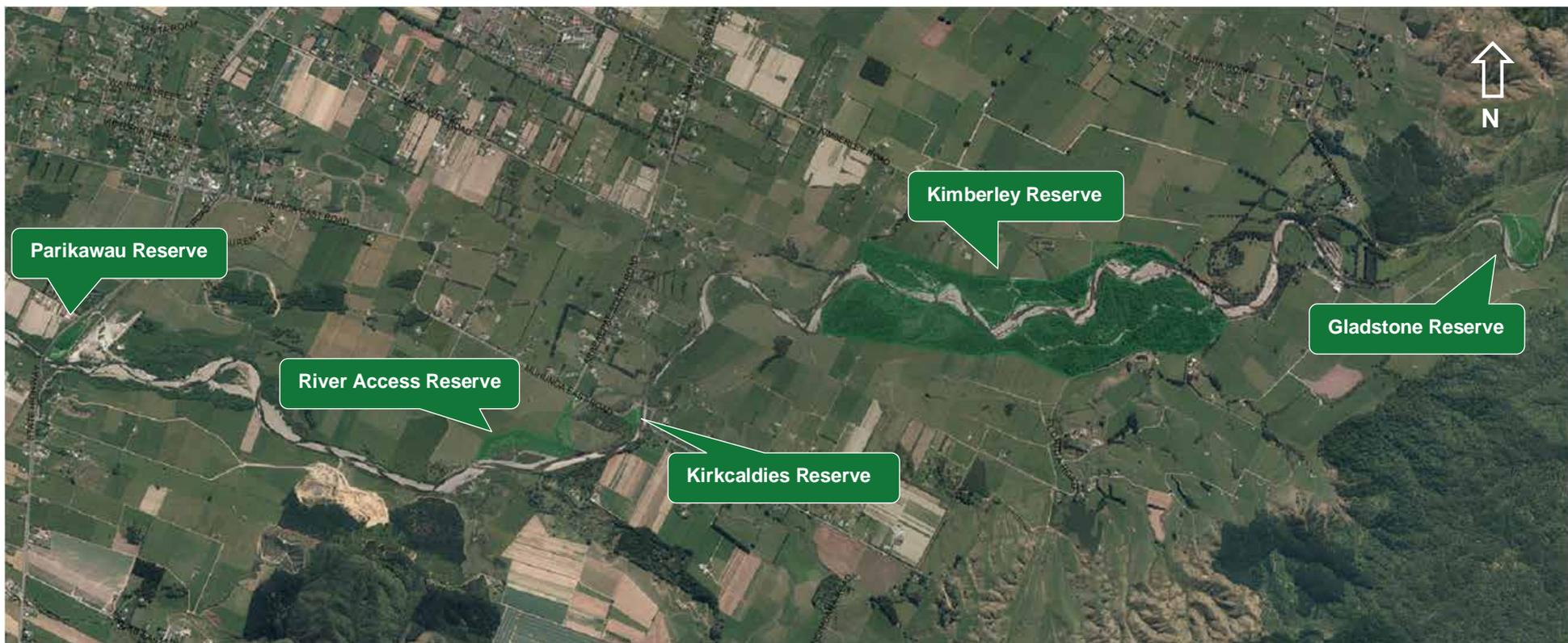


**Diagram 1** Key statutes, plans, strategies and regulations and their relationship with Reserve Management Plans

## 2. Overview of Ohau River Reserves

The Ohau River is located just to the south of Ohau and north of Manakau. It is over 20km in length and flows from the Tararua Ranges to the Tasman Sea. There are five reserves located along the eastern section of the Ohau River which are: Gladstone Reserve; Kimberley Reserve; Kirkcaldies Reserve; an access way off Muhunoa East Road; and Parikawau Reserve.

These reserves are largely passive or scenic reserves, and provide a space for people to have a picnic, go for a walk or they are a way for people to access the Ohau River to go for a swim.



**Image 1** Aerial photo illustrating the general location of each of the Ohau River Reserves (flown 2011)

## 2.1. Ohau River Reserves – Common Matters

As already noted five reserves make up the Ohau River Reserves (Gladstone Reserve; Kimberley Reserve; Kirkcaldies Reserve; the river access off Muhunoa East Road; and Parikawau Reserve).

The Ohau River Reserves all adjoin the Ohau River. These Reserves are similar in that they all provide some form of access to the Ohau River, they each have some native vegetation on them, and they all have ecological, scenic and/or recreational values which Council aims to maintain or enhance for the benefit of the community.

However, each of the Ohau River Reserves has its own ‘point of difference’ or set of issues and opportunities. The following sections of this Reserve Management Plan will cover the issues and opportunities for each individual reserve as well as the site specific objectives, policies and actions.

This section covers the common issues and opportunities across the Ohau River Reserves as well as the common objectives, policies and actions for these five reserves.

It should be noted that the site specific management provisions outlined in the following sections of this Reserve Management Plan take precedence over the common provisions where they relate to the same issue.

### 2.1.1. Common Issues and Opportunities

The common issues and opportunities across the five Ohau River Reserves include maintaining and developing the ecological and biodiversity values of these reserves, managing flood risk and exploring the opportunity of developing a shared pathway network between the reserves.

This Plan contains reserves that are made up of parcels of land that are not classified as reserve under the Reserves Act 1977. Only the parcels that are classified as a reserve are subject to the Act. For reserves where no parcels are classified as reserve, the Reserve Management Plan for that reserve is not a Reserve Management Plan under the Act instead a plan that outlines how Council will manage and develop the land. For reserves where only some of the parcels that make up the reserve are classified as reserve and some aren't, the Reserve Management Plan is considered to be a Reserve Management Plan under the Act only for those parcels which are classified as reserve.

#### 2.1.1.1. *Ecological and Biodiversity Values*

All of the Ohau River Reserves adjoin the Ohau River and each of the five reserves has some native vegetation located on it. Council has the opportunity to maintain and enhance the existing vegetation on these reserves and also undertake planting and expand the native bush areas within the reserves where appropriate.

Council also has the opportunity to develop a better understanding of any pest plant and pest animal issues present within the Ohau River Reserves and to develop a regime for dealing with them. Council is open to working with other groups and organisations (e.g. the Department of Conservation, Horizons Regional Council and iwi/hapu) to enhance the ecological and biological diversity values of the reserves.

#### 2.1.1.2. *Flood Hazard/Risk*

The Ohau River has been known to rise quickly as a result of significant rainfall events. The risk of flooding is a common issue across each of the Ohau River Reserves, although the extent of this

risk and how it is managed and/or mitigated for each reserve may vary.

It should be noted the management of the river and riparian planting is primarily a function of Horizons Regional Council.

#### 2.1.1.3. Shared Pathway

An opportunity that Council may wish to explore in the future is developing a shared pathway that connects the five Ohau River Reserves.

#### 2.1.2. Common Vision

*To manage and develop the Ohau River Reserves in a way that **maximises** the public's recreational use and enjoyment of these Reserves whilst **preserving** the scenic and ecological values of the Reserves.*

#### 2.1.3. Common Management Principles

Manage and develop the Ohau River Reserves as important passive recreation spaces.

Maintain and enhance the natural, scenic and ecological values of the Ohau River Reserves.

Provide appropriate facilities and infrastructure to support the responsible use of the Reserves.

Encourage the use and development of the Ohau River Reserves whilst ensuring that the Ohau River is not adversely affected.

#### 2.1.4. Common Objectives and Policies

##### 2.1.4.1. Objective – Reserve Values

*To maintain and enhance the natural, scenic and ecological values of the Ohau River Reserves.*

##### 2.1.4.1(a) Policy

Where possible, prohibit the use and development of the Ohau River Reserves that would adversely affect the indigenous biodiversity, ecological health or scenic values of the Reserves.

##### 2.1.4.1(b) Policy

Identify an environmental benchmark for these Reserves and seek to maintain and enhance their natural micro-climates to provide for the best ecological management and development of the Ohau River Reserves.

##### 2.1.4.1(c) Policy

Manage pest animals and pest plants across the Ohau River Reserves (as much as practicable) to reduce their presence within these Reserves.

##### 2.1.4.1(d) Policy

Work with adjoining landowners to help prevent the encroachment of exotic plant species onto the Ohau River Reserves from neighbouring properties.

#### 2.1.4.2. Objective – Use of the Reserves

*To provide for the recreational use of the Ohau River Reserves and recognise the role of these Reserves in providing public access the Ohau River.*

##### 2.1.4.2(a) Policy

Provide and maintain appropriate facilities on the Ohau River Reserves which encourage the responsible use and enjoyment of the Reserves and the Ohau River by the public.

##### 2.1.4.2(b) Policy

Ensure the use of the Reserves does not adversely affect the Ohau River.

#### 2.1.4.3. Objective – Management and Development

*To manage and develop the Ohau River Reserves to facilitate the appropriate use of the Reserves, preserve their scenic and ecological values and to improve the connection of the Reserves.*

##### 2.1.4.3(a) Policy

Provide for the on-going use of the Ohau River Reserves for appropriate recreational purposes.

##### 2.1.4.3(b) Policy

Ensure that future development of the Ohau River Reserves in relation to their recreational use is not detrimental to the scenic or ecological values of the Reserves.

##### 2.1.4.3(c) Policy

Encourage projects that assist with regeneration and help to protect, enhance and restore the natural, ecological and scenic values of the Ohau River Reserves.

##### 2.1.4.3(d) Policy

Work with the community and local Iwi to explore future development opportunities of the Ohau River Reserves including enhancing the connection between these Reserves.

#### 2.1.5. Common Actions

Actions	Priority
Develop a regime for pest plant and pest animal management within the Ohau River Reserves.	Medium-High
Investigate the possibility of developing a shared pathway to connect the Ohau River Reserves to each other.	Medium-High
Improve wayfinding/entrance signage and access to this network of reserves and develop a cohesive identity and 'brand' for them.	Medium
Investigate the use of storyboards in Ohau River Reserves of historical and/or cultural significance	Medium
Undertake environmental benchmarking in consultation with stakeholders that will establish the health of existing micro and macro flora and fauna including the impact of exotic plants and weed species. This can be used to develop an environmental development plan.	Medium
Assess the impact of land use and development	Low

Actions	Priority
proposals on the natural and ecological values of the Ohau River Reserves and the River itself.	
Consult with adjoining landowners about preventing the encroachment of exotic plant species onto the Reserves.	Low



*Gladstone Reserve*

## 3. Gladstone Reserve

### 3.1. Reserve Overview

Gladstone Reserve is a passive recreation reserve located to the south-east of Levin. This Reserve is approximately 6km from Levin and located on the southern side of Gladstone Road.

This Reserve was purchased from a local farmer on 17 October 1963 for 'waterworks purposes' with the Levin water treatment plant and water reservoirs subsequently being built on the western portion of the site. The Reserve is made up of multiple parcels of land held in two separate certificates of title (refer to **Appendix 1** for a map of Gladstone Reserve).

Lot 1 DP 10440, which is the eastern-most parcel of land, is currently the only part of Gladstone Reserve that is used for recreational purposes. The rest of the Reserve is managed and used as part of Council's Water Supply Activity for Levin. As such the management of the Reserve is split between two teams within Council. The Parks and Property Team manage Lot 1 DP 10440 and the rest of the Reserve is managed by Council's Infrastructure Services Team which is responsible for Council's Water Supply Activity (among other activities).

Section 82 Waiopēhu Block VI and Section 85 Waiopēhu Block VI are two parcels of land that are adjacent to Lot 1 DP 10440 and are public conservation land administered by the Department of Conservation. These parcels of land have historically been used in association with this recreation reserve (especially Section 82 Waiopēhu Block VI).

Gladstone Reserve is accessed from Gladstone Road. On Lot 1 DP 10440 a metal access way stretches from the road to the Ohau River. This part of the Reserve is a popular picnic spot and provides access to the Ohau River for people wishing to go for a swim. There is also a toilet available on the recreational part of the Reserve which is open over the Summer period of each year.

#### 3.1.1. Reserve Issues/Opportunities

Parts of Gladstone Reserve are at risk of flooding, with the water level of the Ohau River being known to rise quickly at times, especially during significant rain events. To help mitigate risk to Reserve users Council prohibits vehicle access to the recreational part of the Reserve beyond the metal car parking area adjacent Gladstone Road outside of the Summer period. The Reserve can be accessed on-foot throughout the year. The toilet on the Reserve has bunding around it to help avoid this facility being affected during a flood event.

There is a potential opportunity to develop a pathway along the northern edge of the Ohau River from Lot 1 DP 10440, through Part Lots 1, 3 and 5 DP 2127. This path could initially be contained within Gladstone Reserve, with the possibility to extend it and create a shared pathway network connecting all of the Ohau River Reserves (as mentioned under section 2.1 above) in the future. Consideration would need to be given as to whether this could result in any health and safety concerns in relation to the Levin water extraction, treatment and storage area and if so, how these would be addressed.

The signage at the entrance to Gladstone Reserve is setback from Gladstone Road which can make this Reserve difficult to find if you do not already have a good idea of where the entrance is. An opportunity Council may consider for the future would be to improve signage along Gladstone Road for the Reserve, to make it more visible.

Another opportunity is to develop a planting plan for this Reserve (primarily Lot 1 DP 10440) to help make it a more attractive space.

This Reserve is also a popular picnicking spot but does not currently have a picnic table or seating. As such, Council may wish to install these in the future.

### 3.2. Legal Description

Legal Description	Title Reference No.	Land Area
Lot 1 DP 10440	30324	Combined area of 15.6472ha
Part Lot 1 DP 2127		
Part Lot 3 DP 2127		
Part Lot 5 DP 2127		
Lot 2 DP 81796		
Lot 1 DP 12369	WN490/47	0.2383ha
<b>Total Area</b>		<b>15.8855ha</b>

### 3.3. Council Classification

Gladstone Reserve is zoned Rural under the District Plan which is consistent with the surrounding properties. However, this is not consistent with much of the other reserve land in the District which is

typically zoned Open Space (especially recreation reserves). Council may consider re-zoning this Reserve in the future.

Gladstone Reserve is designated under the District Plan (designation reference number D140) for the purpose of 'Levin Water Treatment Plant'. As outlined already the wider Reserve is used for water extraction, treatment and storage activities for Levin's water supply, although Lot 1 DP 10440 is used for passive recreation purposes.

Gladstone Reserve is not currently gazetted as a reserve. While this is appropriate for much of the Reserve, which is a water extraction, treatment and storage site, Council may consider gazetted Lot 1 DP 10440 as a recreation reserve in the future.

### 3.4. Leases

There are no lease agreements in place for Gladstone Reserve.

### 3.5. Vision

*To manage and develop the recreation part of Gladstone Reserve as a **passive reaction** space for the community to **use and enjoy**, whilst maintaining the **natural and ecological values** of the whole Reserve.*

### 3.6. Management Principles

The Parks and Property Team and the Infrastructure Services Team will work collaboratively to ensure that the recreational use, and the water extraction, treatment and storage use of the Reserve are each managed and developed in a way that they can effectively meet the community's needs.

Manage and develop the recreational part of Gladstone Reserve as an important open space for passive recreation.

Maintain and preserve the Reserve's natural and ecological values.

Encourage the use and development of Gladstone Reserve whilst ensuring that Ohau River is not adversely affected.

Provide appropriate facilities to support the use of the recreational part of Gladstone Reserve.

## 3.7. Objectives and Policies

### 3.7.1. Objective – Reserve Use

*Allow the community to use Gladstone Reserve for recreational purposes while also encouraging the active protection of the Reserve's natural and ecological values and the safety of reserve users.*

#### 3.7.1.1. Policy

Allow freedom of public access to the recreational part of Gladstone Reserve provided this does not compromise the natural or ecological values of the Reserve and the safety of reserve users.

### 3.7.2. Objective – Management and Development

*Manage and develop Gladstone Reserve in a way that recognises the Reserve's dual purpose and which maintains and enhances its recreational use while also preserving its natural and ecological values.*

#### 3.7.2.1. Policy

Ensure that Gladstone Reserve is managed and developed in a way that both the Levin Water Supply Activity and recreational activities located on the Reserve can continue to effectively meet the community's needs.

#### 3.7.2.2. Policy

Work with the community to explore future development opportunities for Gladstone Reserve.

#### 3.7.2.3. Policy

Ensure that development of Gladstone Reserve preserves its significant natural and ecological values.



**Image 2** Existing metal access way on the Reserve, with recently planted trees

### 3.8. Actions

Actions	Priority
Investigate developing a pathway along the northern edge of Ohau River within Gladstone Reserve, including how it could be extended to connect with other reserves along the River in the future.	Medium-High
Develop a planting plan for Lot 1 DP 10440 and facilitate its implementation.	Medium
Install a picnic table and/or seating on Lot 1 DP 10440 near the Ohau River.	Medium
Investigate erecting additional signage on Gladstone Road to improve the visibility of the Reserve.	Low-Medium

**Note:** The level of importance assigned to each action above is based on the context of this reserve and has not been considered in relation to levels of importance assigned to other reserves in the District.



**Image 3** Photo of Ohau River taken from Gladstone Reserve



**Image 4** Existing toilet on Gladstone Reserve and the bund that surrounds it



*Kimberley Reserve*

## 4. *Kimberley Reserve*

### 4.1. Reserve Overview

Kimberley Reserve is a relatively large scenic reserve located approximately 5km to the south of Levin. This Reserve is made up of multiple parcels of land, each on different (or without) certificates of title (refer to the aerial maps in **Appendix 2a** and **2b**).

Kimberley Reserve adjoins Ohau River on both the northern and southern sides; following the River for approximately 3km. Most of the parcels that make up this Reserve are covered in vegetation (a mix of native and exotic).

The main public point of access to the Reserve is from Kimberley Road. A sealed access way extends over section 80, along part of the northern boundary of section 79 and then down to the Ohau River. The central part of section 79 has a large open field which is used as a camping, picnicking or informal sports area.

There is onsite parking available for reserve users on section 79 as well as communal toilets. The toilets are currently available for the public to use during the Summer period of each year. Camping is permitted onsite over the Summer period (from December through to Easter), although a permit is required. There are also several walking tracks on the Reserve.

This Reserve is a popular spot for camping, picnicking, people wanting to swim in the River or walk their dog. However, the recreational use needs to be compatible with the significant scenic and ecological values of the Reserve.

Part of section 80 is used to store gravel which is extracted from the Ohau River. Council has also recently received a consent application for further gravel extraction activities to be undertaken. The potential effects associated with this consent application are currently being considered and a decision is yet to be made by Council.

The reserve land on the southern side of the Ohau River is largely covered in bush and is not widely used by the public. Council intends to continue to focus the recreational use of Kimberley Reserve on the northern side of the Ohau River, although it may explore options to better utilise the reserve land south of the river in the future.

#### 4.1.1. Reserve History

Sections 55, 76, 79 and Part Section 58A were originally protected under the Scenery Preservation Act (1908) and were known collectively as 'Permanent State Forest Reserve 331'. The actual date or reason for establishment is not known.

These parcels of land (except for Section 79) were then separately classified as scenic reserves in November 1952. At this time they were known as 'Ohau Scenic Reserves' and were controlled by the Crown. In November 1953 control of these reserves (and Section 79) was vested in the Horowhenua County Council for an initial period of five years. Section 61, a former 'gravel reserve' was added to the collection of reserves at this point (New Zealand Gazette 5/11/53).

In 1959 the vesting arrangement was reviewed and control by the Council was reaffirmed for an indefinite period (New Zealand Gazette 16/7/59). In 1965, Section 82 was added (New Zealand Gazette 9/9/65) and then due to popular use of the name 'Kimberley' the whole area was renamed 'Kimberley Scenic Reserve' in 1970 (New Zealand Gazette 30/7/70).

Finally, with the passing of the Reserves Act in 1977, the area was classified as a Scenic Reserve under Section 19(1)(a) of this Act (New Zealand Gazette 27/5/80). Control of Kimberley Reserve automatically shifted from the old County Council's administration to Horowhenua District Council following the restructuring of local government in 1989.

Section 80, which includes the main entrance to the reserve, was originally acquired by Horowhenua County Council on 23 December 1953, for use as a gravel crusher site and subsequently gazetted as a 'County Buildings Reserve' in 1955. Although this parcel has not been gazetted as scenic reserve it contains the Reserves main entrance. Although much of this parcel is used to store gravel extracted from the Ohau River.

#### 4.1.2. Reserve Issues/Opportunities

Kimberley Reserve has native and exotic flora and fauna which are unique to the Reserve and requires protection from invasive pest species to conserve the natural values of the Reserve. Pest plants such as *Tradescantia fluminensis* (Wandering Willy) compete with native species and threaten to disrupt the canopy structure and the natural re-vegetation cycle.

However, species such as Wandering Willy also provide cover for the protected native snail *Powelliphanta traversi*, so Council must work to control the plant to minimise disruption to the forest structure while still providing a habitat for the protected snail. Pest animals such as possums, stoats, ferrets, rats and mice also threaten the natural life in the Reserve.

There are also human influences which can threaten the ecological and scenic values of the Reserve. People can damage the natural

environment by incorrectly disposing of rubbish or straying from the formed tracks. Future development of the Reserve must consider the health and wellbeing of the natural features in the Reserve.

Kimberley Reserve is recognised as a popular spot for camping, going for bush walks, picnicking, swimming in the Ohau River and exercising dogs. Some of the recreational uses of this Reserve can result in antisocial behaviour or damage to vegetation on the Reserve. Council tries to mitigate these potential issues by restricting access to facilities on the Reserve outside of peak times as well as providing formal tracks in the bush areas for reserve users to utilise, and therefore, limit the area of bush that is subject to human activity.

In the past there has been interest in festivals or events being held at Kimberley Reserve. These could be provided for in the future so long as they are consistent with the Reserves values.

Another issue is that parts of Kimberley Reserve are at risk of flooding, with the water level of the Ohau River being known to rise quickly at times. To help mitigate the risk to reserve users Council prohibits vehicle access to the Reserve beyond the toilet blocks outside of the Summer period. The public is still able to access the Reserve land beyond the toilet blocks on-foot all year. Furthermore signage has been erected on the Reserve which identifies the flood risk and outlines the procedure that reserve users should follow during a flood event.

The toilets on Kimberley Reserve are currently only open over the Summer Period. Council may, in the future, investigate options for providing reserve users with access to facilities outside of the Summer period.

## 4.2. Legal Description

Kimberley Reserve has a total land area of 81.1594ha and is held within two certificates of title as well as containing six untitled parcels of land (refer to the below table).

Legal Description	Title Reference No.	Land Area
Section 54 Horowhenua East Settlement ( <i>not gazetted</i> )	WN135/5	2.0234ha
Section 55 Horowhenua East Settlement ( <i>gazetted as Scenic Reserve in 1980 page 1808</i> )	No Title	26.8104ha
Part Section 58A Horowhenua East Settlement ( <i>gazetted as Scenic Reserve in 1980 page 1808</i> )	No Title	1.6181ha
Section 61 Horowhenua East Settlement ( <i>gazetted as Scenic Reserve in 1980 page 1808</i> )	No Title	0.4603ha
Section 76 Horowhenua East Settlement ( <i>gazetted as Scenic Reserve in 1980 page 1808</i> )	No Title	16.2886ha
Section 79 Horowhenua East Settlement ( <i>gazetted as Scenic Reserve in 1980 page 1808</i> )	No Title	30.7206ha
Section 80 Horowhenua East Settlement ( <i>gazetted as County Building Reserve in 1955 page 927</i> )	27478	1.4164ha
Section 82 Horowhenua East Settlement ( <i>gazetted as Scenic Reserve in 1980 page 1808</i> )	No Title	1.8210ha
<b>Total Area</b>		81.1594ha

## 4.3 Council Classification

Kimberley Reserve is zoned Open Space under the District Plan, with the surrounding properties being zoned Rural and consisting of a mix of lifestyle blocks and farms. Gravel extraction activities also take place within the vicinity of the Reserve.

As shown in the table under section 4.2 of this management plan, much of this Reserve has been vested in Council and is classified as ‘Scenic Reserve’ under section 19(1)(a) of the Reserve Act 1977 (New Zealand Gazette 27/5/80).

However, Section 80 Horowhenua East Settlement was originally acquired by the Horowhenua County Council in December 1953 for use as a gravel crusher site and was subsequently gazetted as a ‘County Buildings Reserve’ in 1955. This site is now the main access to the Reserve and part of it is still used for gravel storage in association with gravel extraction activities in the Ohau River.

Section 54 Horowhenua East Settlement is owned by the Council and has also not been gazetted.

### 4.3. Leases

There are no lease agreements in place for Kimberley Reserve.

### 4.4. Vision

*To manage and develop Kimberley Reserve as a Reserve with **natural, ecological and scenic values** as well as **an important recreational space** for local residents and visitors to use and enjoy.*

## 4.5. Management Principles

Maintain and preserve the Reserve's natural and recreational qualities as well as its value as a scenic reserve.

Encourage the use and development of Kimberley Reserve whilst ensuring that the Ohau River is not adversely affected.

Provide appropriate facilities to support the responsible use of Kimberley Reserve.

Provide for recreational activities that are compatible with the ecological and scenic values of the Reserve.

## 4.6. Objectives and Policies

### 4.6.1. Objective – Reserve Use

*To provide the opportunity for the community to use Kimberley Reserve for recreational purposes, whilst preserving the Reserve's natural, ecological and scenic values and the safety of reserve users.*

#### 4.6.1.1. Policy

Allow freedom of public access to Kimberley Reserve provided this does not compromise the natural or ecological values of the Reserve and the safety of reserve users.

#### 4.6.1.2. Policy

To provide for the use of the Reserve for camping purposes while managing this activity to minimise antisocial behaviour and enhance the camping experience.

#### 4.6.1.3. Policy

Concentrate recreational activities within Kimberley Reserve to specific areas of the Reserve, and therefore, limit the extent of the effects of human activity on the wider Reserve.

#### 4.6.1.4. Policy

Subject to obtaining prior approval from Council, permit temporary events to take place on Kimberley Reserve which will not adversely affect the scenic or ecological values of the Reserve or the Ohau River.

### 4.6.2. Objective – Management and Development

*To manage and develop Kimberley Reserve in a way that maintains and enhances its recreational and scenic values.*

#### 4.6.2.1. Policy

Encourage future development that seeks to enhance the recreational and scenic values of the Reserve.

#### 4.6.2.2. Policy

Promote greater public awareness and appreciation of the historical and natural values of the Reserve.

#### 4.6.2.3. Policy

Work with the community to explore future development opportunities for Kimberley Reserve.

4.7. Actions

Actions	Priority
Consult with reserve users to assess the need/desire for developing or improving recreational features, such as tracks or signage, which will enhance the public’s enjoyment of the Reserve.	Medium
Engage with surrounding landowners and relevant agencies (e.g. Department of Conservation) to determine opportunities to enhance aquatic environments.	Low- Medium
Install interactive signage to educate reserve users of the natural and historical values of the Reserve.	Low

**Note:** The level of importance assigned to each action above is based on the context of this reserve and has not been considered in relation to levels of importance assigned to other reserves in the District.



Image 5 Sign on a notice board at the Reserve about what to do in a flood event



Image 6 Information board and toilet blocks at Kimberley Reserve



Image 7 Open space area (turf) at Kimberley Reserve



*Kirkcaldies Reserve*

## 5. 'Kirkcaldies' Reserve

### 5.1. Reserve Overview

This is not a formal reserve but rather it is a section of 'closed road' and over time part of it has developed into, and been used as, a passive recreational reserve.

The parcel of land that makes up 'Kirkcaldies' Reserve (*note: this reserve is yet to be formally named*) follows either side of the Ohau River and stretches from Muhunua East Road, where it curves round to Kirkcaldies Bridge, for approximately 0.7km to the north (refer to **Appendix 3** for an aerial map of the reserve). The Reserve is located just over 4km from Levin and 3km from Ohau Township.

The main part of the parcel of land that is used for recreation reserve purposes is a triangle of land on the western side of the Ohau River, to the south of Kirkcaldies Bridge. This Reserve is primarily used by people to access the Ohau River to go for a swim. The triangle of land includes a metalled car parking area, with a couple of picnic tables.

The main recreational part of Kirkcaldies Reserve is not currently signposted. Council should erect a sign at the entrance of this Reserve to improve its visibility to potential reserve users. Council may also consider developing a walkway from the car park to the River.

The rest of the parcel of land is not utilised for recreational purposes and parts of it are overgrown and inaccessible, with the northern section appearing to be currently used by adjoining properties for grazing.

Council should consider reclassifying this parcel of land for recreation reserve purposes. An opportunity Council may wish to consider for this Reserve is to clear the weed plants along the edge of the Ohau River and replant the riparian strips with other more suitable plants.

Much of this Reserve is identified as at risk of flooding, with the water level of the Ohau River been known to rise quickly at times. To help mitigate the risk to reserve users Council can prohibit vehicle access to the Reserve.



**Image 8** One of the picnic tables at Kirkcaldies Reserve

### 5.2. Legal Description

Legal Description	Title Reference No.	Land Area
Part Muhunua 4	No Title	Approximately 7ha

### 5.3. Council Classification

Kirkcaldies Reserve is zoned Rural under the District Plan which is consistent with the zoning of the properties surrounding the Reserve.

The Reserve is currently identified as a section of stopped road, although it should be reclassified as a scenic or recreation reserve in the future. Council may also wish to rezone it to Open Space as well.

### 5.4. Leases

There are no lease agreements in place for Kirkcaldies Reserve.

### 5.5. Vision

*That this Reserve be managed and developed in a way that **maintains and enhances its natural and ecological values, whilst continuing to facilitate the community's recreational use of Ohau River.***

### 5.6. Management Principles

Manage and develop this Reserve as a passive recreation space.

Maintain and preserve the Reserve's natural and ecological values.

Encourage the use and development of Kirkcaldies Reserve whilst ensuring that Ohau River is not adversely affected.

Provide appropriate facilities to support the public's use and enjoyment of Kirkcaldies Reserve.

### 5.7. Objectives and Policies

#### 5.7.1. Objective – Reserve Use

*To provide the opportunity for the community to use Kirkcaldies Reserve for recreational purposes while also encouraging the active protection of the Reserve's natural and ecological values and safety of reserve users.*

##### 5.7.1.1. Policy

Allow freedom of public access to Kirkcaldies Reserve provided this does not compromise the natural or ecological values of the Reserve and the safety of reserve users.

##### 5.7.1.2. Policy

Manage and maintain this Reserve as an access way for the public to important swimming holes.

#### 5.7.2. Objective – Management and Development

*To manage and develop Kirkcaldies Reserve in a way that best utilises the recreational opportunities of this Reserve while preserving its natural and ecological values.*

##### 5.7.2.1. Policy

Work with the community to explore future development opportunities for Kirkcaldies Reserve.

5.7.2.2. Policy

Encourage development on the Reserve that will enhance the recreational use of it without compromising the natural and ecological values of the Reserve.

5.7.2.3. Policy

Enhance the visibility of this Reserve for potential users.

5.8. Actions

Actions	Priority
Erect signage at the entrance to the main recreational part of the Reserve to identify it as a Reserve.	Medium-High

**Note:** The level of importance assigned to each action above is based on the context of this reserve and has not been considered in relation to levels of importance assigned to other reserves in the District.



Image 9 Car parking area at Kirkcaldies Reserve



Image 10 Swimming hole accessed via Kirkcaldies Reserve



*River Access off Muhunoa East Road*

## 6. River Access off Muhunoa East Road

### 6.1. Reserve Overview

This Reserve is vested as a recreation reserve although it is primarily used to access the Ohau River from Muhunoa East Road.

The Reserve is located on the southern side of Muhunoa East Road, opposite the end of Arapaepae South Road (refer to **Appendix 4** for a map of this Reserve). It is approximately 4km from Levin and 2.5km from Ohau Township.

The Reserve is made up of three parcels of land; with sections 94 and 95 Waiopehu Block V being contained in certificate of title WN29D/781 and Section 1 SO 28189 not having a title. Section 94 runs in a narrow strip toward Ohau River, it adjoins section 95 which splays out into a triangle halfway so that the Reserve has a narrow road frontage and gets wider, closer to the river. Section 1 follows the River and adjoins the other two sections to their south.

This Reserve is not sign posted and public access is currently restricted by a padlocked gate. The access to the Reserve is not well formed and a large portion of the triangular part of the reserve is currently being used for grazing by an adjoining landowner.

Council may consider making this Reserve more accessible to the public in the future if it was to become part of a shared pathway network along the Ohau River, in conjunction with the other Ohau River Reserves. Work would need to be undertaken to upgrade the

access way and improve the fencing between the Reserve and the neighbouring property if this was to occur.

This Reserve is within a flood hazard area. If the Reserve is made more accessible to the public in the future then appropriate steps will need to be taken to ensure that vehicle access is restricted for the public outside of the Summer months and that they are aware of the potential hazard risk.

### 6.2. Legal Description

Legal Description	Title Reference No.	Land Area
Section 94 Waiopehu Block V	WN29D/781	0.5633ha
Section 95 Waiopehu Block V	WN29D/781	0.8015ha
Section 1 SO 28189	No Title	1.1382ha
<b>Total Area</b>		<b>2.503ha</b>

### 6.3. Council Classification

The River Access off Muhunoa East Road is zoned Open Space under the District Plan, with the surrounding properties being zoned Rural and consisting of a mix of rural lifestyle blocks and farms.

Sections 94 and 95 Waiopehu Block V and Section 1 SO 28189 are not formerly classified as reserve and Council may wish to do this in the future.

## 6.4. Leases

There are no lease agreements in place for this Reserve.

## 6.5. Vision

*To maintain this Reserve as an **access point** to Ohau River, and that any future development shall aim to **facilitate** the **community's enjoyment** of the River whilst helping to maintain its **natural** and **ecological values**.*

## 6.6. Management Principles

Maintain this Reserve as an access point to the Ohau River.

Provide for the appropriate use and development of this Reserve.

Maintain and preserve the Reserve's natural and ecological values.

## 6.7. Objectives and Policies

### 6.7.1. Objective – Use and Development

*Maintain this Reserve as an access way to the Ohau River and provide for appropriate development of the Reserve.*

#### 6.7.1.1. Policy

Maintain this Reserve as an access way to Ohau River but continue to restrict its use by the public until such a time as the Reserve is further developed.

### 6.7.1.2. Policy

Explore future development opportunities of this Reserve which will improve its connection to the other Reserves along the Ohau River.

### 6.7.1.3. Policy

Consult with stakeholders and adjoining landowners in relation to the development opportunities.

## 6.8. Actions

No site specific Actions have been identified for this Reserve.



*Parikawau Reserve*

## 7. Parikawau Reserve

### 7.1. Reserve Overview

Parikawau Reserve is situated to the north of the Ohau River and has State Highway 1 to its west and the North Island Main Trunk Railway to its east. It is approximately 1km to the south of Ohau Township (see **Appendix 5** for an aerial map of this Reserve). Part of this Reserve is leased to HTP & K Incorporated.

The Reserve is largely 'open space' with scattered vegetation and an accessory building as well as several other small structures currently situated on it. The central part of the Reserve appears to be a mix of native and exotic vegetation. An opportunity for this Reserve would be to undertake additional planting on this Reserve to enhance the existing vegetation on the Reserve. Council can work with stakeholder groups (such as HTP & K Inc.) to do this.

The southern part of the Parikawau Reserve is available for use by the public. It contains a toilet (which is currently not available for the public to use), a picnic area and also has good access to the Ohau River. It is a relatively popular layby for travellers who know that the Reserve is there and it is listed as a freedom camping site. An opportunity for this Reserve is to improve the signage along State Highway 1 which identifies that the Reserve is there.

There is also the opportunity to tidy up the entrance to this Reserve and potentially undertake some planting to make this Reserve more attractive.

#### 7.1.1. Reserve History

This Reserve was originally road reserve (New Zealand Gazette 8/7/54) but was found to be 'surplus to requirements' and was proclaimed closed in 1955. The Department of Lands and Survey then assessed its potential as a recreation reserve and it was subsequently classified as such under the Reserves and Domains Act 1953 (New Zealand Gazette 1/12/55) and vested for management with the Horowhenua County Council.

At this time the Reserve comprised of Sections 78, 79 and 80 Waiopahu Block IV. A committee was established to advise the County Council on reserve developments in 1960, although the committee disbanded after several years having served its purpose. During this period the picnic and rest area adjacent the Ohau River was established and planted.

In October 1969 a lease was signed following the granting of a conditional use for the establishment and operation of tearooms on the northern portion of the Reserve. The initial lease covered the entire Reserve but it was soon modified to cover Section 78 only and then was later again extended to include Section 80 following a request for more space from the lease holder. The tearooms were unfortunately destroyed by fire in early 1999.

Due mainly to administrative reasons, Ohau and Parikawau Domains were united in 1971 with the name Parikawau being temporarily lost in favour of Ohau (New Zealand Gazette 5/8/71). Then in the middle and late 1970's the Reserve (Parikawau) began to attract interest from several clubs wishing to establish clubrooms on reserve land.

After consideration, leases were signed with the Levin Car Club, Horowhenua Vintage Car Club and the Poroporo Scout Group (Scout

Association of New Zealand). This led to a reconsideration of the main purpose of the Reserve and its classification was subsequently changed to 'Local Purpose Reserve' (Community Buildings) (New Zealand Gazette 16/12/82) under the Reserves Act 1977. At which point it was separated from Ohau Domain and it reacquired its original name - Parikawau.

Poroporo Scout's lease expired in 2001 and it was transferred to the Hot Rod Club which held a lease for the Reserve from 2001 until 2009. The Levin Car Club and the Vintage Car Club ended their lease of the Reserve in the early-to-mid 2000s.

Section 78 and Section 80 are no longer part of the Reserve. HTP & K Incorporated have leased the part of the Reserve since January 2013.

## 7.2. Legal Description

Legal Description	Title Reference No.	Land Area
Part Section 79 Waiopahu Block IV	No Title	<b>1.3368ha</b>

## 7.3. Council Classification

Parikawau Reserve is zoned Open Space under the District Plan, with the surrounding properties which are a mix of the Greenbelt Residential Zone and the Rural Zone.

Parikawau Reserve is classified as a Local Purpose Reserve (gazetted in 1982 page 4325) under the Reserves Act 1977.

## 7.4. Leases

Part of this Reserve is currently leased to HTP & K Incorporated for 'Marae Purposes'. The lessees pay a nominal rental as they only require a small area but were provided with almost the whole Reserve (at an annual rental equivalent to the area they require) on the basis that they maintain the area they lease.

*This lease is due to expire on 31 December 2017 unless it is renewed before this time.*

## 7.5. Vision

*To manage and develop Parikawau Reserve as a **passive recreation reserve** for the community can use and enjoy, whilst maintaining its **natural** and **ecological values**.*

## 7.6. Management Principles

Manage and develop Parikawau Reserve as a passive recreation reserve.

Maintain and preserve the Reserve's natural and ecological values.

Encourage the use and development of Parikawau Reserve whilst ensuring that Ohau River is not adversely affected.

Provide appropriate facilities to support the responsible use of the Reserve.

## 7.7. Objectives and Policies

### 7.7.1. Objective – Use and Development

*Maintain and develop Parikawau Reserve as a passive recreational reserve while also encouraging the active protection of the Reserve’s natural and ecological values and the safety of reserve users.*

#### 7.7.1.1. Policy

Provide for the use of Parikawau Reserve by the public as well as specific groups whilst not compromising the natural or ecological values of the Reserve and the safety of reserve users.

#### 7.7.1.2. Policy

Work with the stakeholder groups as well as the wider community to explore future development opportunities for Parikawau Reserve.

## 7.8. Actions

Actions	Priority
Look into improving the signage along State Highway 1 to encourage more people to stop and use the Reserve.	Medium
Develop a planting plan for this Reserve.	Low-Medium

**Note:** *The level of importance assigned to each action above is based on the context of this reserve and has not been considered in relation to levels of importance assigned to other reserves in the District.*

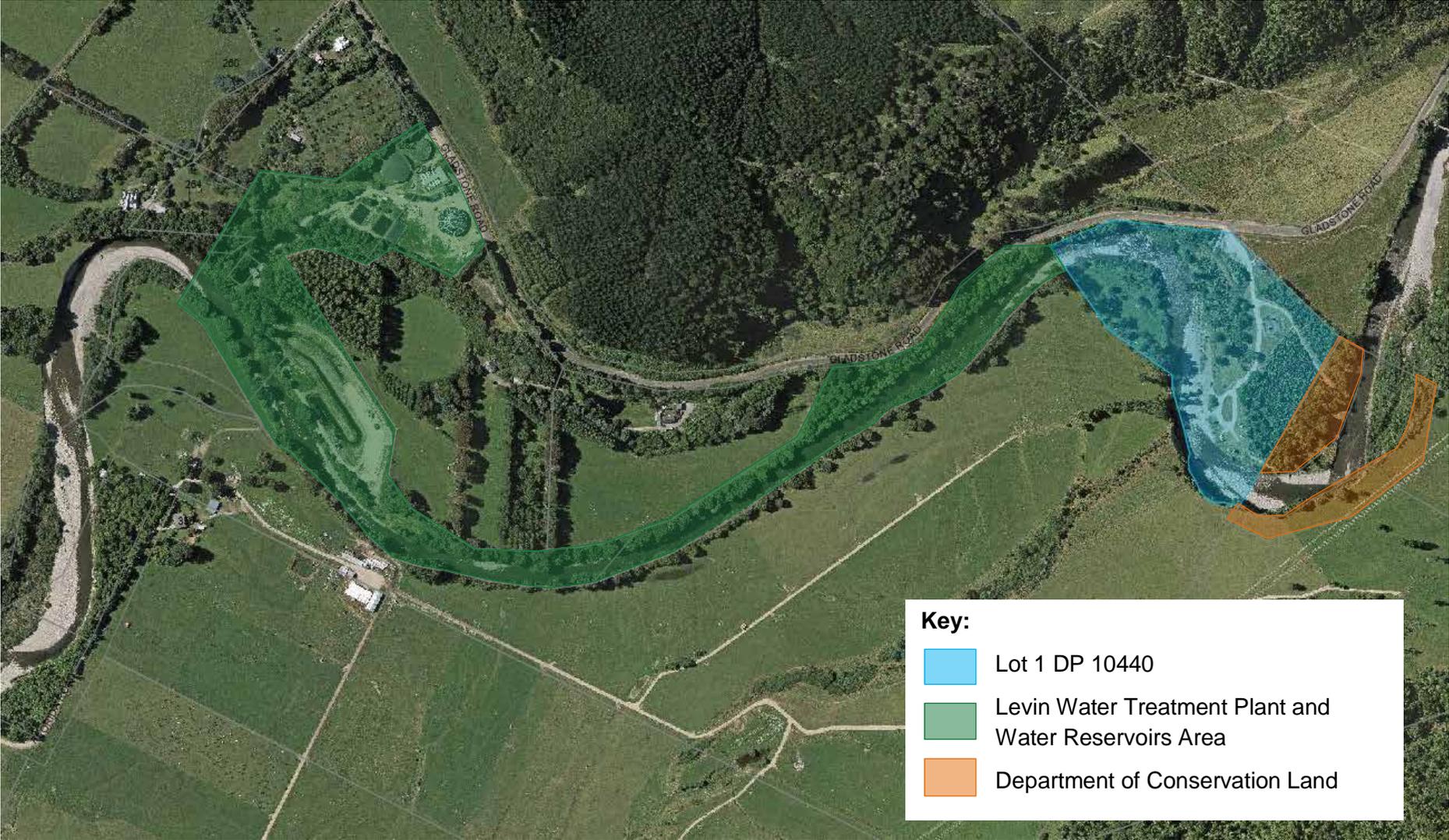


**Image 11** Picnic table a Parikawau Reserve

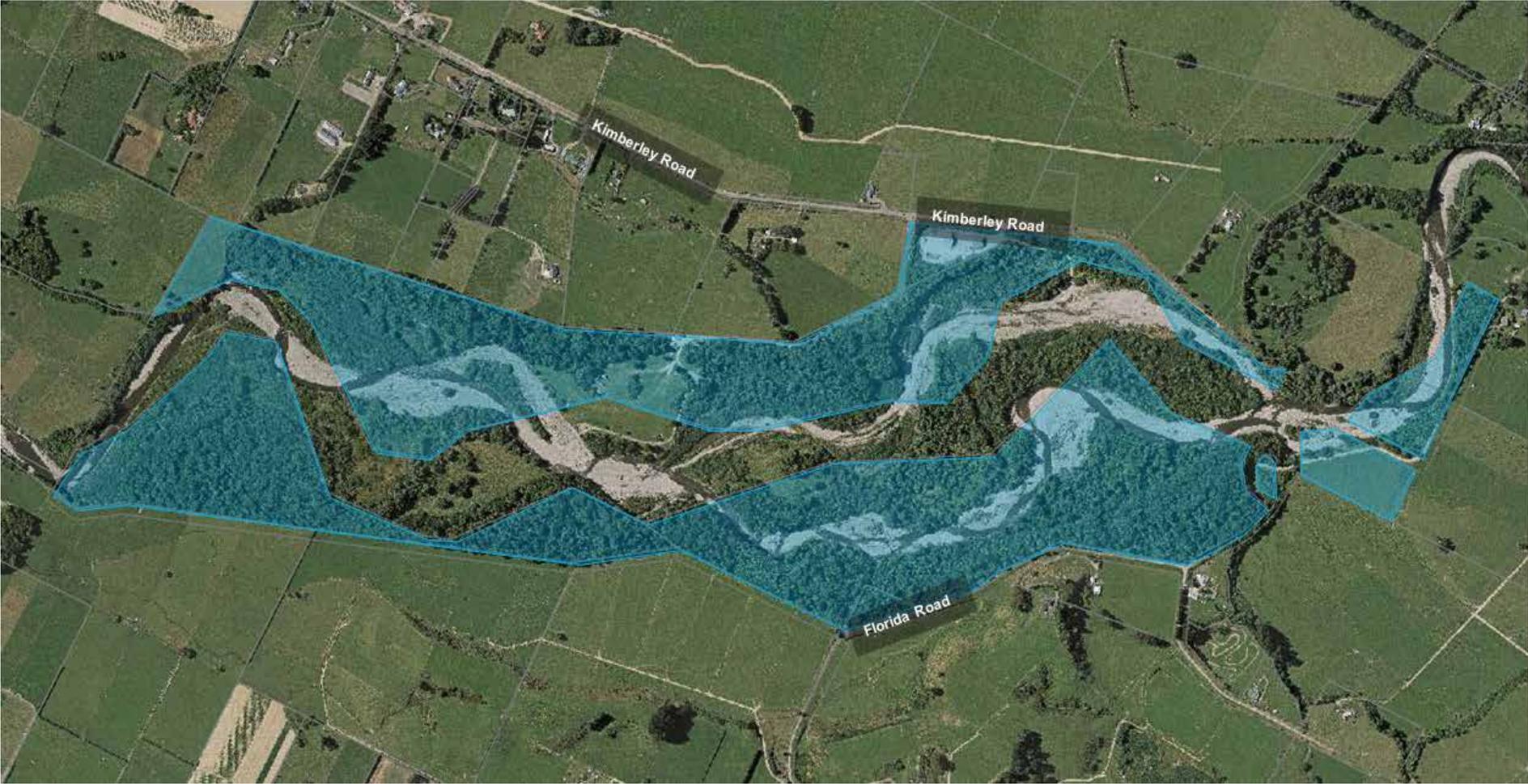


**Image 12** Currently unused toilet block at Parikawau Reserve

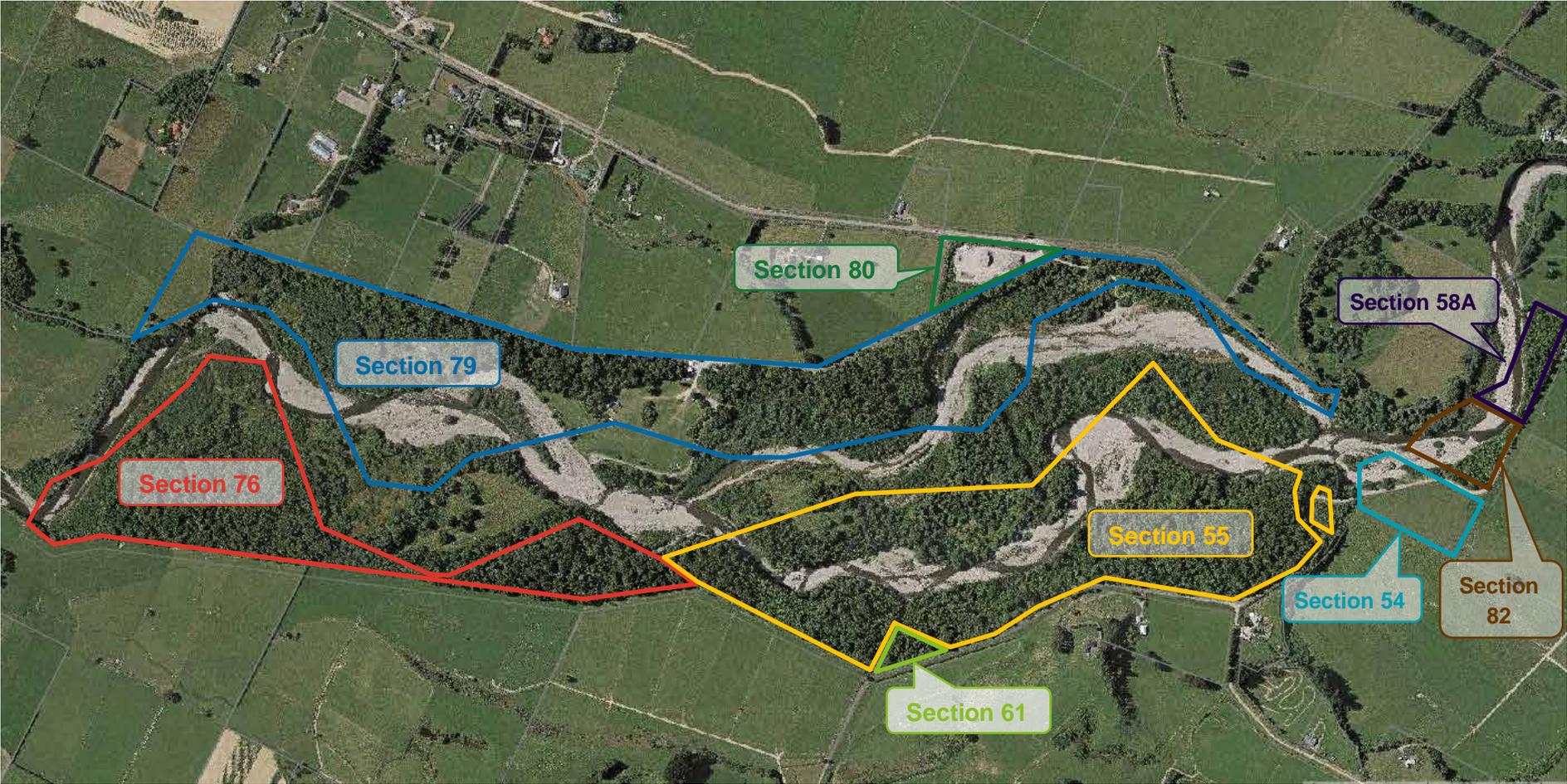
Appendix 1 - Aerial Map of Gladstone Reserve (AND SURROUNDING AREA)



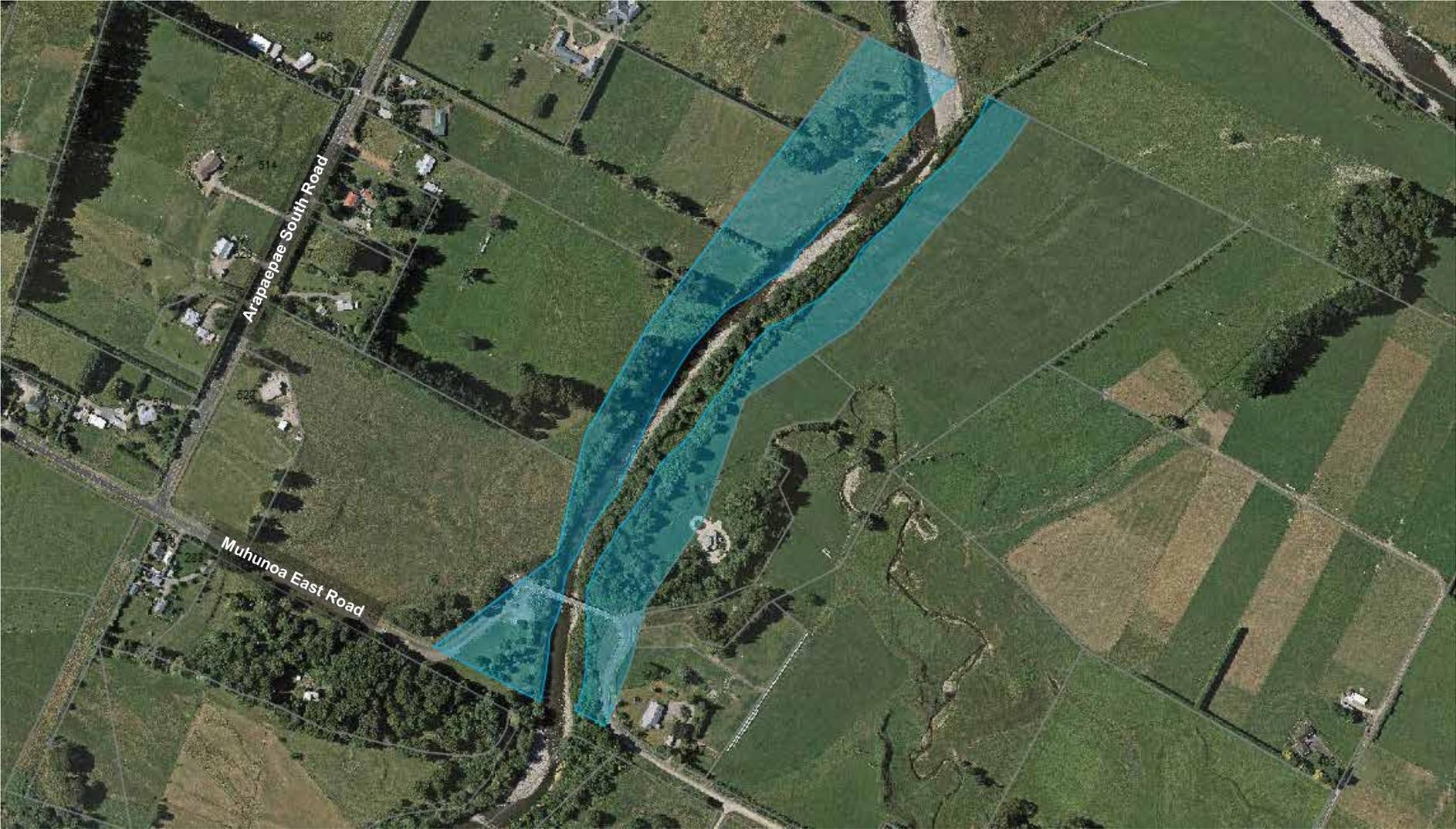
Appendix 2a - Aerial Map of Kimberley Reserve (AND SURROUNDING AREA)



Appendix 2b - Aerial Map of Kimberley Reserve showing the parcels that make up the Reserve



Appendix 3 - Aerial Map of Kirkcaldies Reserve (AND SURROUNDING AREA)



Appendix 4 - Aerial Map of River Access off Muhunoa East Road (AND SURROUNDING AREA)



Appendix 5 - Aerial Map of Parikawau Reserve (AND SURROUNDING AREA)

