

Kaikoura Reserves Draft Management Strategy
A Community Vision



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MAP

Overview of the Environment Canterbury Kaikoura Reserves showing the Kowhai River, Lukes Creek and Waimangarara River Reserves respectively from West to East.



7. What is the Kaikoura Reserves Draft Management Strategy?

This draft management strategy

- is an outcome of the investigation into the establishment of a Kaikoura Regional Park
- has been developed with broad community representation
- sets goals and clear objectives which are intended to guide Environment Canterbury's future management of the Kaikoura Reserves
- describes the many actions necessary to achieve these goals with indications of priority and timing.

The essential elements of the strategy are contained in the tables of goals, objectives and actions. There are three overall goals for the strategy. Some of the objectives which follow and many of the actions which are intended to achieve these, will help to achieve more than one of the goals.

Area covered

The strategy includes the following Environment Canterbury land parcels or parts thereof on the Waimangarara River, Luke Creek and Kowhai River

Waimangarara River	
<i>Legal Description</i>	<i>Area hectares</i>
Pt Pukaka sec B	4.7
Pt section 297 Kaikoura Surburban Dist	2.4
Pt section 296 Kaikoura Surburban Dist	2.6
Pt section 295 Kaikoura Surburban Dist	4.1
Pt section 175 Kaikoura Surburban Dist	8.7
Section 2 Sect 29 Kaikoura Surburban Dist	14.0
Section 30 Kaikoura Surburban Dist	26.5
Section 31 Kaikoura Surburban Dist	24.7
Section 32 Kaikoura Surburban Dist	25.6
Section 14 blk viii Mt Fyffe SD	124.7
Section 18 blk viii Mt Fyffe SD	0.6
Section 17 blk viii Mt Fyffe SD	0.3
Pt section 15 blk viii Mt Fyffe SD	38.4
Pt lot DP 9795	6.9

Luke Creek	
<i>Legal Description</i>	<i>Legal Description</i>
Section 354 Kaikoura Surburban Dist	Section 354 Kaikoura Surburban Dist
Section 22 Kaikoura Surburban Dist	Section 22 Kaikoura Surburban Dist
Pt DP 815	Pt DP 815
Pt DP 815	Pt DP 815
Pt DP 815	Pt DP 815
Pt section 2 Sect 73 Kaikoura Surburban Dist	Pt section 2 Sect 73 Kaikoura Surburban Dist
Pt section 1 Sect 73 Kaikoura Surburban Dist	Pt section 1 Sect 73 Kaikoura Surburban Dist
Pt section 23 Kaikoura Surburban Dist	Pt section 23 Kaikoura Surburban Dist

Kowhai River	
<i>Legal Description</i>	<i>Area hectares</i>
Section 3 blk xiii Mt Fyffe SD	45.3
Section 6 blk vi Mt Fyffe SD	37.1
Section 5 blk vi Mt Fyffe SD	17.3
Section 5 blk vi Mt Fyffe SD	0.6
Section 49 blk ix Mt Fyffe SD	30.8
Pt Riverbed blk vi Mt Fyffe SD	2.3
Riverbed blk vi Mt Fyffe SD	14.6
Riverbed survey office plan 1324	14.8
Riverbed Mt Fyffe survey district	262.9
Pt Section 218 Kaikoura Surburban Dist	5.6
Pt Section 217 Kaikoura Surburban Dist	1.4
Pt Section 215 Kaikoura Surburban Dist	0.9
Pt Section 109 Kaikoura Surburban Dist	5.9
Pt Section 109 Kaikoura Surburban Dist	2.6
Section 85 Kaikoura Surburban Dist	15.1
Section 84 Kaikoura Surburban Dist	21.3
Section 61 Kaikoura surburban Dist	19.4
Section 59 Kaikoura surburban Dist	15.1
Section 58 Kaikoura surburban Dist	14.4
Section 57 Kaikoura surburban Dist	8.7
Section 56 Kaikoura surburban Dist	11.9
Pt Section 55 Kaikoura surburban Dist	14.0
Pt Section 54 Kaikoura Surburban Dist	2.8
Pt Sec 52 Kaikoura Surburban Dist	0.4
Lot 1 DP 2948	1.5
Pt lot 1 DP 3842	15.7
Lot 1 DP 7571	1.2
Lot 1 DP 11359	6.7
Pt Section 2 Section 53	1.5
Pt Section 216	0.7

Introduction

The bed and berm of the Kowhai River between Mount Fyffe on the seaward Kaikoura Range and the Main North Rail Line, the Waimangarara River between Mount Fyffe to approximately 680 metres downstream of Postmans Road and Luke Creek between Topline Road to approximately 400 metres downstream of Postmans Road are vested in Environment Canterbury as local reserves under the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941, for river protection purposes. The areas total approximately 920 hectares and is located within the Kaikoura District and the takiwà of Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura.

Environment Canterbury's primary role on the Kowhai, Waimangarara and Lukes Creek is flood protection.

The fans built by the Kowhai River, the Mount Fyffe streams (Floodgate Creek, Middle Creek, Luke Creek, Waimangarara River, Harnetts Creek) and the Hapuka River, drop steeply in elevation over a relatively short distance. The rivers and streams, if left to themselves would inevitably change course at random, and discharge damaging amounts of flood waters and sediment onto the floodplain.

The commercial centre of the urban area of Kaikoura is situated on the coastal edge of the floodplain at the mouth of Lyell creek. Frequently it has been inundated by breakouts from this creek, many in conjunction with waters arriving overland from the Kowhai River.

The first recorded attempts at river control of the Kowhai River were undertaken in 1870 following the disastrous floods of 1868. Since this time the river history of the Kaikoura Plains has been a turbulent one and has been liberally sprinkled with arguments, ministerial enquiries and court cases.

The emphasis more recently has been towards an integrated programme of structural (e.g. training works, echelon banks, stop banks, erosion control works, river and channel clearing, and sediment control) and non structural (e.g. building controls, flood warnings, education) measures. This is ongoing, and with the publication of the Kaikoura Floodplain Management Strategy Issues and Options Report 1999, new works have been incorporated into the annual works programmes as the district can afford to, and into the Kaikoura District Plan.

Due to their high biodiversity values, existing recreation opportunities, ease of access and connection to the Mt Fyffe estate, the Kaikoura Reserves are a popular destination for local residents and visitors from across the Canterbury Region. **Additionally, national and international tourists making use of the reserves add to the pressure upon the rivers and their ecology.**

Until the passing of the Local Government Act 2002, Environment Canterbury's management of this land was constrained to functions authorised by the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act. This limited the opportunities to promote, develop and manage recreational use of the rivers.

This management strategy has grown from a community desire to better integrate the protection and endowment management of this land with the high ecological values and recreation use.

The programme to produce the strategy included public meetings followed by a consultative process with an Advisory Group which was formed from the initial public meetings and invitations to key stakeholders. The advisory group includes representatives from:

- Kaikoura community
- Department of Conservation
- Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura
- Kaikoura District Council
- Kaikoura High School
- Forest & Bird
- Shingle extraction contractors

Process

Public meeting held August 2010

Series of public, steering group and stakeholder meetings, August 2010 – November 2010

Advisory Group established to oversee strategy preparation, September 2010

Input from stakeholders (mana whenua, statutory authorities, recreation groups, environmental groups, community groups and individuals)

Draft Management Strategy prepared, January - February 2011

Community feedback, February - April 2011

Draft Strategy revision & final Strategy release

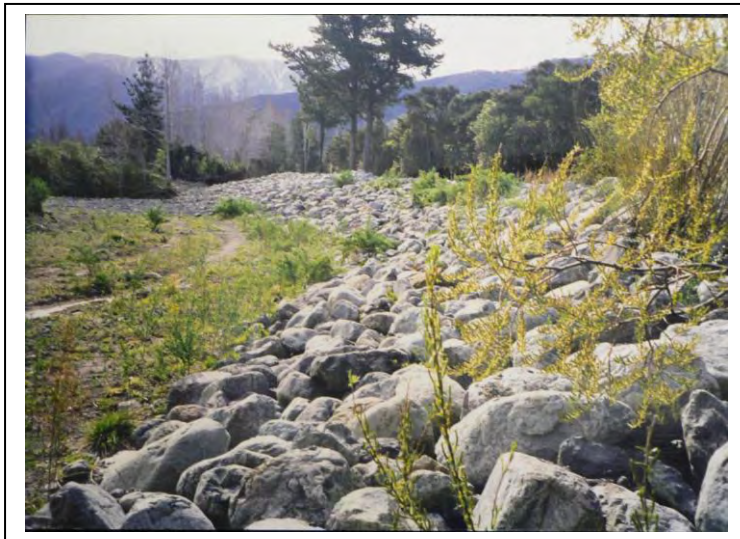
Management Strategy presented to Kaikoura District Council, Department of Conservation, Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura 2011

The terms of reference for the Kaikoura Advisory Group are:

The Advisory Group shall meet as necessary to:

- help determine ways of managing the sustainable development of recreational use of the Kowhai River providing for flood protection and natural values
- advise on how to enhance the public's understanding and value of the flood protection system and the river environment
- advise on how to lead the public to use the Kowhai River, Waimangarara River and Luke Creek Reserves sensitively
- provide information to Environment Canterbury relating to the natural values in the Kaikoura Reserves
- provide information to Environment Canterbury relating to present and future recreational opportunities in the Kaikoura Reserves
- comment on draft documents leading to the preparation of a non statutory Concept Development Plan

It is hoped that this group or others from their organisations will stay on to assist in the development of detailed proposals and their implementation.



Rock batter echelon



Kanuka forest Waimangarara River

Kaikoura Reserves Draft Management Strategy Public Meetings Input

Values and opportunities

- Access to firewood
- Access to shingle
- Tramping/walking links to Mt Fyffe
- Mountain biking on the Kowhai
- Profoundly wild areas
- Bird corridors between the mountains and sea
- Outdoor education trails
- Education resource biodiversity/ecology/ sustainability projects
-



South Island Robin

Issues

- River control practices impacting upon native biodiversity
- Grazing impact upon river control infrastructure and native plant regeneration
- Continued freedom of access
- Pest control
- Protection of habitat and indigenous wildlife
- Managing banks without destroying system
- Wilding pines on neighbouring Mt Fyffe lands
- Funding for other than river control activities
- Freedom camping
- Visitors/recreationists impacting upon river control operations



Impact of grazing upon regeneration



Grazing damage to stop bank

Vision: “xxxxx”

Summary of Goals and Objectives

GOAL 1: TO PROVIDE FOR ESSENTIAL RIVER MANAGEMENT AND FLOOD MITIGATION OPERATIONS SAFELY AND EFFECTIVELY WHILE CAUSING A MINIMUM OF DISTURBANCE TO NATURAL AND RECREATIONAL VALUES AND USERS.

Objective 1 Recreational users, lessees and residents understand the flood protection system and the necessity for protection operations including shingle extraction.

Objective 2 Develop detailed procedures for the management of river protection operations in association with wildlife and habitat protection.

Objective 3 Separate machinery and truck movements from other river users wherever practicable.

GOAL 2: TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

Objective 4 Restore, maintain and protect the river’s mauri (life force).

Objective 5 Protect and enhance populations and habitats of native plant and animal species of the Kowhai River, Waimangarara River and Lukes Creek

GOAL 3: TO PROVIDE FOR SAFE AND BALANCED RECREATION WITH A MINIMUM OF CONFLICT BETWEEN WIDELY DIFFERENT USER GROUPS.

Objective 6 Recreational users value the river environments and the flood protection system and use them sensitively without causing damage.

Objective 7 Recreational opportunities are maintained and extended.

GOAL 1: TO PROVIDE FOR ESSENTIAL RIVER MANAGEMENT AND FLOOD MITIGATION OPERATIONS SAFELY AND EFFECTIVELY WHILE CAUSING A MINIMUM OF DISTURBANCE TO NATURAL AND RECREATIONAL VALUES AND USERS.

Objective 1: Recreational users and residents understand the flood protection system and the necessity for protection operations including shingle extraction.

Performance Measure: Increasing understanding of the flood protection system and the necessity for protection operations including shingle extraction.

No	Action	Explanation	Priority	Map Number	Funding
1.1	In conjunction with the Kaikoura District Council the carpark area at the Kowhai River mouth will have signage, planting, an information kiosk and a night gate.	An upgraded carpark area will encourage visitors and discourage inappropriate use of the area as well as informing users of river management and flood mitigation.			This is one of the most expensive actions. The progress and scale will be determined by the funding stream available. This action will be a priority if a Regional Park is established.
1.2	Environment Canterbury will work with a range of recreational and resident groups to minimise conflict with river protection operations.	Different sections within ECan are responsible for different aspects of our work and these groups will work with the community depending on their responsibilities.			Existing budget.
1.3	Interpretive material by way of the ECan website, leaflets and information panels.	The works required to protect the river are not well understood. For example stopbank damage caused by ignorant use of motorised recreation vehicles. A range of ways to reach diverse user groups will be used.			Progress will depend on Kaikoura Rating District or Regional park funding.

GOAL 1: CONTINUED

Objective 2: Develop detailed procedures for the management of river protection operations in association with wildlife and habitat protection.

Performance Measure: Procedures are available by June 2011 to guide management of ECan's protection operations. Procedures are also in place by June 2011 to guide shingle operators and specialist recreation user groups.

No	Action	Explanation	Priority	Map Number	Funding
2.1	ECan will co-operate closely with the local environmental groups as they work to improve the understanding of local species' habitats, requiring and threats.	Much of this work has been completed by the the local groups so that our understanding of the Kaikoura River bird populations and their interactions with river users is already greatly improved.	Ongoing		
2.2	ECan river engineering staff will continue to work to enhance practical procedures to govern their operations and those of their contractors.	ECan has developed procedures with shingle extraction contractors to govern their operations. These will need to be reviewed regularly and as more information on impacts of the operations is obtained.	Ongoing		
2.3	ECan staff will continue to work with shingle consent holders to operate with a minimum of disruption to birdlife.	ECan has developed procedures with shingle extraction contractors to manage their operations with the minimum disruption to birdlife.	Ongoing		
2.4	ECan will work with specialised recreational users to develop practical procedures to minimise the impacts of their use.	Examples include trail bikes and 4WDs.	Ongoing		

GOAL 1: CONTINUED

Objective 3: Machinery and truck movements will be separated from other river users wherever practicable.

Performance Measure: A reduction in truck movements on tracks shared with other river users. To be measured in conjunction with Objective 1 performance measures.

No	Action	Explanation	Priority	Map Number	Funding
3.1	Wherever possible destination-based design will be used to separate shingle truck movements from other river users.	Areas will be set aside for specific compatible activities.	Staged as per LTCCP		
3.2	Access through the riverbed will be closed where shingle extraction is occurring to ensure public safety. Alternative access may be arranged.	When the large shingle operations are taking place there are frequent truck movements across the berm. Where it is possible, through public access will be restricted while this work is underway and the area treated as a work site.	Staged to coincide with shingle extraction works		

GOAL 2: TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Objective 4: Restore, maintain and protect the river's mauri (life force).

Performance Measure: degree of satisfaction among Te Runanga o Kaikoura.

No	Action	Explanation	Priority	Map Number	Funding
4.1	Establish observation-based programmes to enable Te Runanga o Kaikoura to assess the river's mauri.	Each water body has its own mauri, guarded by separate spiritual guardians, its own mana and its own set of associated values and uses.			

Objective 5: to protect and enhance the full range of threatened native plant and animal species and their habitats of the Kaikoura Rivers.

Performance Measure: Annual report on progress each July by the ECan Ecologist with periodic surveys.

No	Action	Explanation	Priority	Map Number	Funding
5.1	Organise river management protection operations around threatened bird populations and habitats of the Kaikoura Rivers.	ECan will continue to work closely to facilitate required outcomes.	Ongoing		
5.2	Environmental education for river users.	ECan will work closely with other agencies, specialist groups and users to identify and facilitate education opportunities.	Ongoing		
5.3	ECan will work with the Dept of Conservation and specialised recreation groups and users to develop practical measures to minimise effects on bird populations and habitats.	A single incident can impact greatly on the river's threatened bird populations. One measure to be used is to exclude vehicles in sections of the riverbed during bird breeding season.	Ongoing		
5.4	ECan will work with shingle extractors to improve bird breeding opportunities within extraction sites.	Much of the successful bird breeding takes place in former shingle extraction sites. Large area weed removal is an example of an activity better suited to machinery.	Ongoing		
5.5	Protect areas of high conservation value.	Areas of high conservation value will be identified and managed to reflect their significance.	Ongoing	1	Progress will depend on the Rating District and/or Regional Park funding.
5.6	Protect the remaining indigenous plant communities.	There are a number of indigenous plant communities surviving in the area. These areas need up to date survey information collected and require means to prevent damage eg access control, retirement from grazing, pest control.	Ongoing	1	Progress will depend on the Rating District and/or Regional Park funding.
5.7	Survey the biodiversity of the three reserves to guide the enhancement of key indigenous plant communities.	The survey will identify opportunities for the restorations of indigenous plants communities.	High	1	Progress will depend on the Rating District and/or Regional Park funding.
5.8	Implement indigenous plant communities' enhancement projects.	As per report recommendations.	Ongoing	1	Progress will depend on the Rating District and/or Regional Park funding.

GOAL 3: TO PROVIDE FOR SAFE AND BALANCED RECREATION WITH A MINIMUM OF CONFLICT BETWEEN WIDELY DIFFERENT USER GROUPS.

Objective 6: Recreational users value the river environment and the flood protection system and use them sensitively without causing damage.

Performance Measure: increasing understanding by users of the river environment and flood protection measures. To be assessed by Annual Survey.

No	Action	Explanation	Priority	Map Number	Funding
6.1	Information will be available at key access points in the form of leaflets and display panels.	The objective will be to inform the public about the river environments including their frailties and strengths. Information will also be available on the various enhancement projects including how people can get involved.			
6.2	Environmental education opportunities with a focus on the river corridors will be investigated.	The need for more education to resolve many of the river's conflicts was a constant theme during the community consultation. Target schools as children are the long term river users.			
6.3	Both organised and non organised specialist users will be informed about the river environments.	Information will be provided to different user groups by way of leaflets, maps and talks at club nights. Non club members will be reached by having the same material at access points and in relevant retail outlets.			
6.4	Noisy and dangerous misuse of vehicles is eliminated in the heavily used lower sections of the Kowhai River .	4WD's and motorbikes can cause nuisance and danger for other river users and gravel extractors and cause damage to the flood protection network.			

GOAL 3: CONTINUED

Objective 7: Recreational opportunities are maintained and extended.

Performance Measure: annual survey identifying significant new opportunities and maintenance completed.

No	Action	Explanation	Priority	Map Number	Funding
7.1	Work with Kaikoura District Council and DOC to improve walking and cycling opportunities both to and along ECan land to maximise recreation opportunities.	The Kaikoura District Council Walking and Cycling Strategy seeks to increase the frequency people will choose to walk and cycle. Eg establish cycle/walkway linkages from adjoining tracks and Kaikoura to the river.			
7.2	Develop a detailed proposal for the enhancement, where appropriate, of walking, running, mountain biking and related activity opportunities. The establishment of picnicking and swimming opportunities will be investigated.	The river and adjoining lands offer many opportunities for walking, mountain biking and related activities eg dog walking. Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• From the mouth to the foothills up the Kowhai• Waimangarara nature walking area			
7.3	ECan staff will work with specific user groups to enhance recreation opportunities.	There are many instances where co-operation with specific groups should lead to improved recreation facilities eg walking and mountain bike trails.			

Outline of Proposals by River

The following proposals are based on community and user input and in some areas' existing use. Many of the proposals are straightforward and will be implemented as part of normal operations. In others, additional expenditure is required to develop detailed plans. In these cases the information in this outline is included to provide background and ideas for those plans. As these plans are developed, their implementation will be budgeted through the LTCCP process. All proposals are subservient to the requirements of flood protection.

Kowhai River:

- Pest control
- Biodiversity enhancement
- River mouth car park upgrade in conjunction with KDC
- Cycle/walking track upgrade
- Mountainbike track
- Alternative recreation



Waimangarara River:

- Pest control
- Biodiversity enhancement
- Walking/nature track enhancement
- Alternative recreation



Luke Creek:

- Pest control
- Biodiversity enhancement





Stoney Creek



Lyall Creek



Floodgate Creek



Hapuka River

Advisory Group Summary of Findings – Your groups comments

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