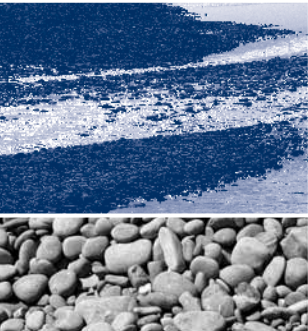




WRRRP Management Plan

McIntoshs

Chapter 5



Waimakariri River Regional Park

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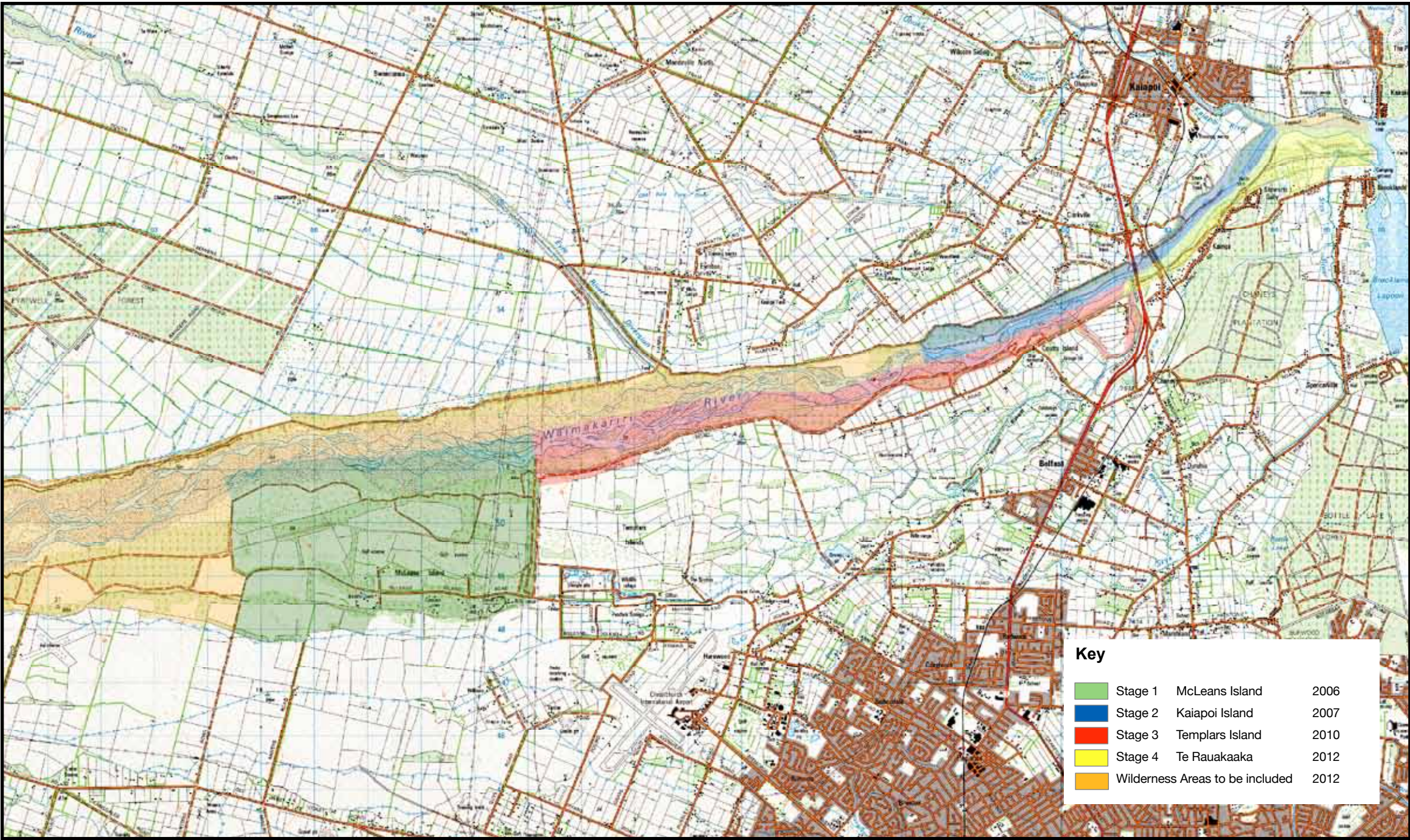
Background

This document is chapter five of the Waimakariri River Regional Park Management Plan. Due to the immense size of the Park (15,000 hectares) the plan is being prepared in stages. Each stage relates to a geographical location within the park and the corresponding chapter can be read independently but will eventually, along with the introduction and technical chapters, form the completed plan.

After the completion of the first three chapters of the plan, the number of proposed geographical areas has been reduced from nine to eight. Of these eight areas, there remain four main locations targeted for significant development. Areas of the park falling outside these four main stages will have a lower level of development but will be covered by regional park signage and management.

The four main stages identified for major development are McLeans Island, Templars Island and Te Rauakaaka on the south bank, and Kaiapoi Island on the north bank.

Park Stages



Introduction

This section of the Waimakariri River Regional Park is known as McIntoshs.

There is a pedestrian access point from the river end of Ferry Road, which is a popular anglers access to the adjacent McIntoshs Rocks. The section also includes Clifford Road, an unformed paper road on the eastern boundary of the adjoining Waimakariri District Council sewerage ponds and the only public vehicle access point at Kairaki Beach out to the river mouth and the Northern Pegasus Bay.

There is a significant natural area called Jockey Baker Creek which has recently been partially restored as part of Waimakariri District Councils consent conditions after the discharge from the adjacent Kaiapoi Sewer ponds into the creek ceased.

The development of McIntoshs will enhance the cycling/walking linkages between Kaiapoi and the beach settlements; the wider network connecting the park through the Te Kohaka o Tuhaitara Coastal Park to the Ashley Rakahuri Regional Park and beyond. Development will also allow for the enhancement of secluded picnic spots downstream of the confluence, improved access across the stopbank at Ferry Road for those with limited mobility and biodiversity restoration at Jockey Baker Creek.

Location

The McIntoshs section of the Waimakariri River Regional Park is situated on the true left or north side of the Waimakariri River. It is a narrow stretch of river berm which runs approximately 2.5 kilometres between the Kaiapoi River confluence and the beach settlement of Kairaki and totals approximately 30 hectares. The vehicle entrance off Featherstone Ave to the river mouth and beaches totalling 6 hectares, is also included in McIntoshs.

The section contains the following land parcels or part there of;

Valuation Number	Lot Number
Environment Canterbury	
2185213600	
	Pt rs 1393
	Reserve 4060
2175223700	Pt rs 320
Waimakariri District Council	
	Pt Res 3658
	Lot 2 DP 83113
2162129700	Lot 75 DP 7293

The stopbank between Askeaton Reserve and Beach Road crosses a number of parcels of private property.



History

Prior to European settlement, the Waimakariri River was an unconstrained braided river which had split into two main channels in the lower reaches forming a number of islands. This section of the Regional Park is downstream of what was the biggest of the river islands, Te Rakai a Hewa' and what was the confluence of the two branches. The river then made its way downstream for about two kilometres to an estuary which ran south and parallel to the sea before discharging into Pegasus Bay about 2 kilometres south of the present day mouth.

Kairaki was an important mahinga kai area for local Maori with an abundance of shellfish and fish species. W A Taylor wrote in his book *Lore and History of the South Island Maori* that the “area on the north bank of the north branch of the Waimakariri was known as Ourihia, the name has been erroneously applied to the district formerly known as Chaney’s on the South Branch. The name of that district is correctly Kaipari”. He also wrote that the swamplands around Kairaki were called Ngawhari.

Early Pakeha settlers in the Kairaki region used it as a cattle rearing area. The first European settler at Kairaki was David Tibbitts. Later settlers included Kenneth and Grace McIntosh who immigrated to New Zealand from Scotland and arrived on the ‘Mystery’ in 1859. Kenneth and Grace settled in Kaiapoi, near the site of today’s golf course and eventually purchased the first of their lands on Beach

Road in 1869. This was a block of 150 acres, with a further 90 acres added in 1890. They had twelve children including Hector and Robert. Hector went on to become mayor of Kaiapoi Council between 1924 and 1927. His brother Robert was elected Mayor of Rangiora in 1925 and the two brothers established the McIntosh Shield to encourage friendly rivalry between the two towns. The Shield is still contested today.

Kairaki beach became a favourite picnic spot during the 1860’s and the Kaiapoi Volunteer Rifles had a range out in the adjacent sandhills. The original Beach Road was a track across the wetlands but it was not until the 1870’s that a stable road to the beach was made. James Butt, an early Kaiapoi road and bridge contractor, was responsible for forming this road, and the Mandeville and Rangiora Road Board was forced to plant poplars along each side to keep the high foundations from sliding into the adjacent swamps. This is the origin of the beautiful poplar avenue which lined the road for many decades. Clifford Road which runs between Beach Road and the river was named after George Clifford who had 143 acres on the north bank of the Waimakariri prior to 1863.

The Jubilee flood of 1887 was the catalyst for the digging of McIntoshs Drain which is still in place today and flows into the Kaiapoi River immediately upstream of the confluence. By 1931 the works to straighten the Waimakariri River’s lower

reaches were completed. These were carried out to move shingle and floodwaters out to sea at a faster rate than was occurring with the rivers natural meandering form. However the newly excavated entrance through the sand hills to the sea was to be a failure as the river continued on its old course. It was not until the flood of 1940 that the river abandoned the Brooklands Lagoon and made straight for the sea forming today’s mouth, some distance north of where the River Trust had planned for.

Many ships plied this section of the river with Kaiapoi serving as a trading port from the early 1850’s until it officially closed in 1969. The first regular shipping service was run by George Day with his ‘Flirt’ in 1852. It was a monthly service between Heathcote and Kaiapoi.

In 1909 the Kaiapoi Shipping and Trading Company purchased ‘Kairaki’ a specially designed steamer to cope with the large volume of cargo out of the Kaiapoi Port’. ‘Kairaki’ went down with all hands in a storm off Greymouth in 1914, only a mile or two from the Grey River mouth.

Today, the lower reaches of the Waimakariri River are highly modified and bear little resemblance to how they looked 150 years ago.

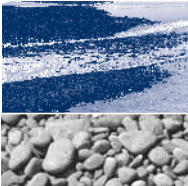


Kairaki circa 1910 - Courtesy Kaiapoi District Historical Society



Kaiapoi Port, circa 1911. “S.S. Kairaki” on the left - Courtesy Kaiapoi District Historical Society

¹ The adornment of the deluded one



Biodiversity

The main indigenous vegetation and habitats within McIntoshs are located at the Jockey Baker Creek area. This area, covering approximately 15 ha, contains both tidal saltmarsh and freshwater wetland habitats. The tidal saltmarsh supports Caldwells sedge (*Bolboschoenus caldwellii*), three square (*Schoenoplectus pungens*), oioi (*Apodasmia similis*) and saltmarsh ribbonwood (*Plagianthus divaricatus*) vegetation; while raupo (*Typha orientalis*) and harakeke (*Phormium tenax*) dominate the freshwater wetlands.

The existence of mudflat crabs, estuarine snails, polychaetes and bloodworms has been previously reported and as the area is flooded during the Waimakariri River high tide, a number of fish species are likely to frequent the creek.

Given the suitable habitat of tidally inundated grasses and sedges along the marsh margins, it is possible the area may also be a whitebait spawning site.

The creek was used as a discharge point from the adjoining Kaiapoi Sewerage Ponds for several decades. In 2006, a non-statutory enhancement plan was prepared by NIWA for Waimakariri District Council as a condition for a temporary consent to continue to discharge into the creek while the Waimakariri Eastern District Sewerage Ocean Outfall was being completed. The plan lists a number of objectives and work priorities for the restoration of the area.

In July 2010, Waimakariri District Council completed its obligations and passed the area back over to Environment Canterbury. Work completed over the past four years has included the eradication of invasive weeds e.g. crack willow and the planting of native species, predominantly harakeke. Environment Canterbury will now be responsible for the ongoing weed management and indigenous biodiversity enhancement.

The margins of Saltwater Creek between the Beach Road floodgates and Waimakariri River are largely devoid of native vegetation at present, but could offer suitable habitat for restoration planting of native saltmarsh species such as three square, sea rush and marsh ribbonwood.



Saltwater Creek - looking downstream from the Beach Road floodgates



Jockey Baker freshwater wetland



Aerial view of the tidal saltmarsh and freshwater wetland

Recreation

The primary recreation activities within the McIntoshs section of the park are water based and include fishing, whitebaiting, rowing and yachting. Fish & Game NZ identifies the lower reaches of the Waimakariri as the most heavily used recreational river in the South Island.

McIntosh’s Hole, located approximately two kilometres upstream of the mouth and accessed from Ferry Road is a very popular fishing location best known for salmon fishing. However, McIntosh’s can also provide very good trout fishing, especially around dawn and dusk. Access to McIntoshs Hole will be greatly improved for disabled anglers with the upcoming construction of a fishing platform, pathway and allocation of car park spots at the end of Ferry Road. This project is being carried out by the NZ Salmon Anglers Association.

The river mouth can be accessed on the north bank through the Kairaki settlement and is popular for whitebaiters and salmon and kahawai fishermen.

Jockey Baker Creek is popular for seasonal whitebaiting and gamebird hunting.

There is a walkway pursuant to the Walkways Act 1975 that runs between Askeaton Reserve Kaiapoi, and Beach Road on the western bank of Saltwater Creek, leading to The Pines and Kairaki Beaches.



Salmon Anglers at McIntoshs Rocks courtesy NZ Salmon Anglers Assn

25 Year Vision

McIntoshs will continue to be the most popular fishing and whitebaiting destination within the lower reaches of the Waimakariri River. It will form an integral link in the regional park cycleway / walkway trails which link Kaiapoi and the adjoining Te Kohaka o Tuhaitara Trust Coastal Park to locations throughout the Park and out across North Canterbury.

Motorised beach access will be sympathetic with the need to protect and enhance the coastal environment.

Cabbage trees and riparian broadleaf species will frame the peripheries of the Jockey Baker Creek tidal marsh and wetland. The area will compliment the adjacent core habitat area at Te Rauakaaka Nature Reserve (Waimakariri saltmarsh/Styx River mouth) and support associated indigenous invertebrates, fish and birds.

There will likely be commercial recreation and leisure operators at Kaiapoi and Kairaki which will support the activities occurring within the lower reaches of the park.



Yachting at Kairaki, circa 1947 courtesy Kaiapoi District Historical Society



Fishing at McIntoshs Hole

McIntoshs – Askeaton to Beach Road

Vision

A popular riverside recreation destination linking the river to the North Canterbury walking and cycling network.

Existing Issues

The main existing issues to be addressed in the concept development plan include:

- Rubbish dumping at the Askeaton and Ferry Road entrances.
- Limited river access for visitors with mobility issues
- Vandalism of temporary public toilet facilities

Design Aims

The design aims for McIntoshs are:

- To provide ease of access to the recreation opportunities that exist at McIntoshs
- To ensure that recreation opportunities are consistent with the protection of the natural setting
- To strengthen walking and cycling links to other sections of the park, the Kaiapoi Town network and the adjoining Te Kōhaka ò Tuhaitara Coastal Park.
- To protect and enhance the Jockey Baker Creek wetland
- To protect and enhance Saltwater Creek
- To enhance education and interpretation opportunities
- To minimise conflict with adjoining properties

To ensure cohesive connections to the Waimakariri District Council Askeaton and Featherstone Reserves and the Te Kōhaka ò Tuhaitara Coastal Park

Key Design Features

The key design features of the concept development plan include:

- Upgraded cycle and walking access entrances at Askeaton, Ferry Road and Beach Road
- Signage and interpretation
- Designated disabled car parking and enhanced access at Ferry Road
- Disabled angler fishing platform
- Restoration of the open space picnic areas
- Designated area for temporary public toilet facilities
- Boardwalks and viewing platforms within Jockey Baker Creek wetland
- Enhancement of Saltwater Creek riparian margin

Activities

Category	McIntoshs	Reason for Category
Permitted	Fishing	Preferred activity
	Cycling	Preferred activity
	Dogs under control in all areas except where specifically prohibited	Waimakariri District Council bylaws
	Portable gas bbq	Preferred activity
Managed	Harakeke / Raupo harvesting	Cultural harvest agreement in place, permission required
	Gamebird hunting	Restricted hours dawn – gam, conflict with other users
Restricted	Events	Permit required
	Commercial filming	Permit required
	Commercial operations	Permit required
Prohibited	Horse riding	Conflict with other park users, protection of the environment
	Motor vehicles inc trailbikes/ATV’s	Protection of the environment, conflict with other users
	Lighting fires	Protection of the environment, conflict with other users
	Camping or Camper vans overnight	Commercial operator nearby, protection of environment



NZ Salmon Anglers Association proposed fishing platform



McIntoshs picnic area



McIntoshs – River mouth and Pegasus Bay Entrance

The Kairaki end of McIntoshs runs for approximately 550 metres from Featherstone Avenue to the Waimakariri River mouth and serves as the motor vehicle entrance to the Northern Pegasus Bay beaches. The area contains parcels of land administered by both Environment Canterbury and Waimakariri District Council. A Memorandum of Understanding between the two agencies is being established to allow this area to be managed as part of the Waimakariri River Regional Park.

Vision

A popular river destination and entry point to the recreation opportunities offered along this section of Pegasus Bay.

Existing Issues

The main existing issues to be addressed in the concept development plan include:

- Rubbish dumping
- Vehicles driving through sensitive dune protection areas
- Motor Vehicle damage to the top of the primary stopbank off Featherstone Avenue

Design Aims

The design aims for Featherstone Avenue Entrance are:

- To provide formalised car parking
- To provide formalised access to the river mouth and coast
- To reduce vehicle damage to the top of the primary stopbank

Key Design Features

The key design features of the concept development plan include:

- A formalised car park and beach access
- Replacement of exotic river protection forest with native dryland coastal forest

Activities

Category	Waimakariri River mouth	Reason for Category
Permitted	Fishing/whitebaiting	Preferred activities
	Picnicking	Preferred activity
	Bird watching	Preferred activity
	Dogs under control	Waimakariri District Council bylaws
	Portable gas bbq	Protection of the environment
	Motor vehicle to river mouth and beach	Waimakariri District Council bylaws
Managed		
Restricted	Events	Permit required
	Commercial filming	Permit required
	Commercial operations	Permit required
Prohibited	Horse riding	Conflict with other park visitors, protection of the environment
	Unregistered motor vehicles inc trailbikes/ATV's	Protection of the environment, conflict with other users
	Lighting fires	Protection of the environment
	Camping or Camper vans overnight	Commercial operator nearby, protection of environment
	Hunting and shooting	Conflict with other park visitors



Salmon anglers line both sides of the river mouth courtesy NZ Salmon Anglers Assn



Kairaki stopbank entrance to the river mouth and Pegasus Bay



Artists impression of the proposed Kairaki carpark and entrance to the river mouth and Pegasus Bay



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