Environment and Climate Committee Workshop, 7 May 2026

Information considered in the public part of the workshop.

Greater Wellington
Te Pane Matua Taiao

Te Mahere Whareroa
Queen Elizabeth Park Spatial Plan

Environment & Climate Change Committee Workshop
7th May 2026

Overview

Outline of this workshop

- Context & update on progress/ where we are at in the process
  - Mana whenua partnership discussions
  - Stakeholder engagement
- Share emerging spatial directions and test them
  - Values
  - Focus 1: Te Taiao (Natural Systems)
  - Focus 2: Manaakitanga (Welcoming and Care)
  - Focus 3: Kōtuitui (Connections)
  - Focus 4: Ahi kā (Mana whenua ongoing presence)
- Pose questions

Not looking for a decision but to brainstorm, understand perspectives and seek guidance

Where are we in the process

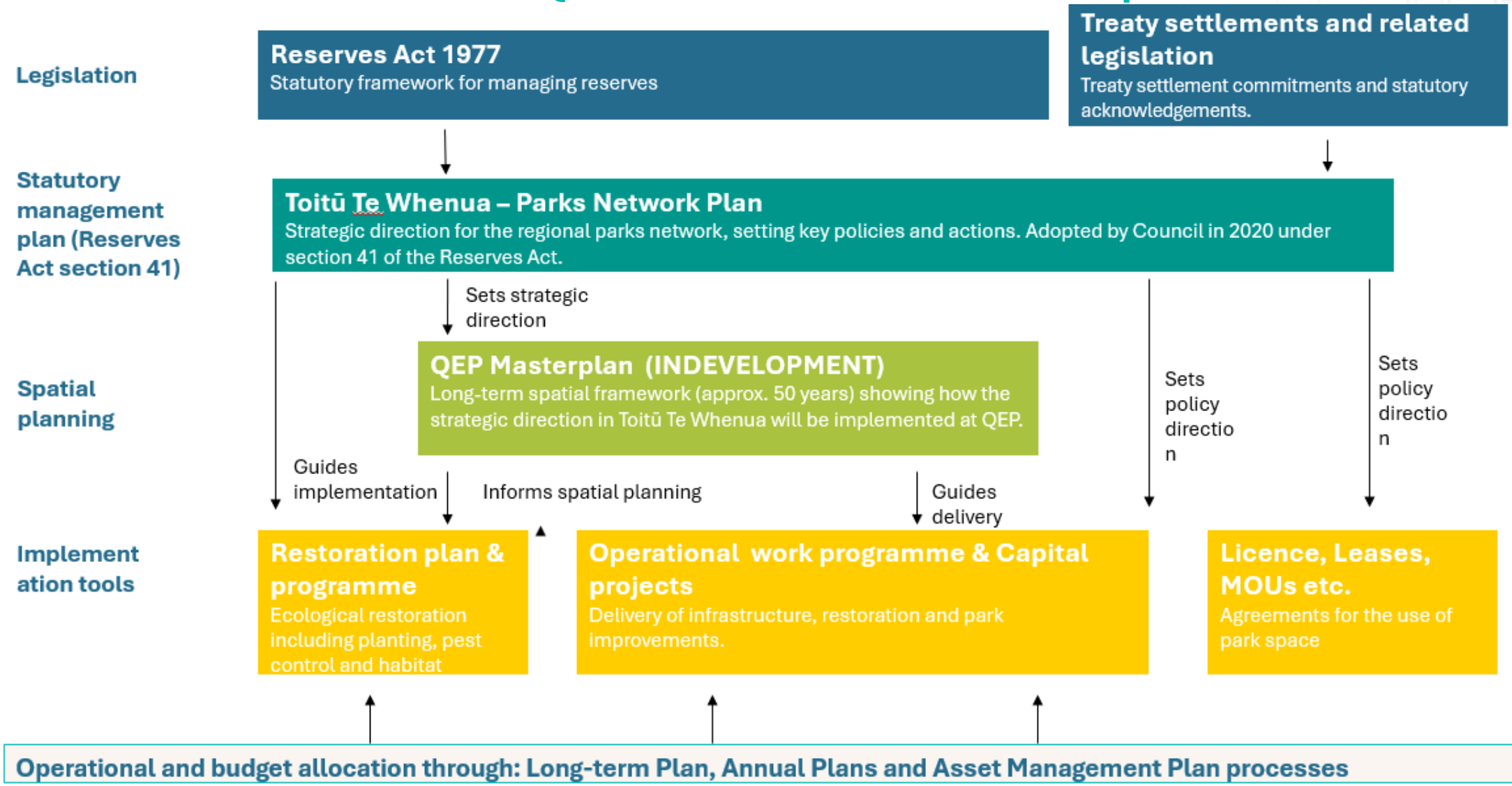
Key elements:

- **Today = test and refine, not decide**

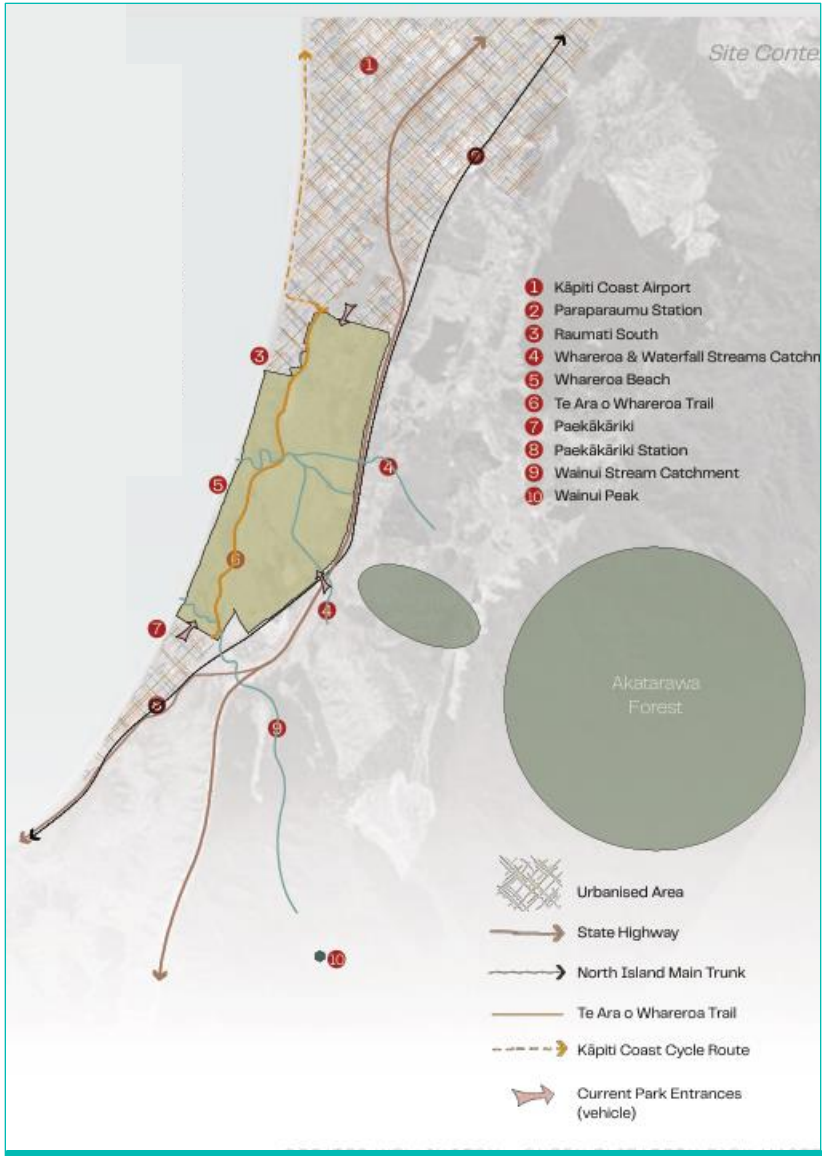
Greater Wellington
Te Pane Matua Taiao

Strategic Context

Where the Whareroa/Queen Elizabeth Park masterplan fits



Site Context



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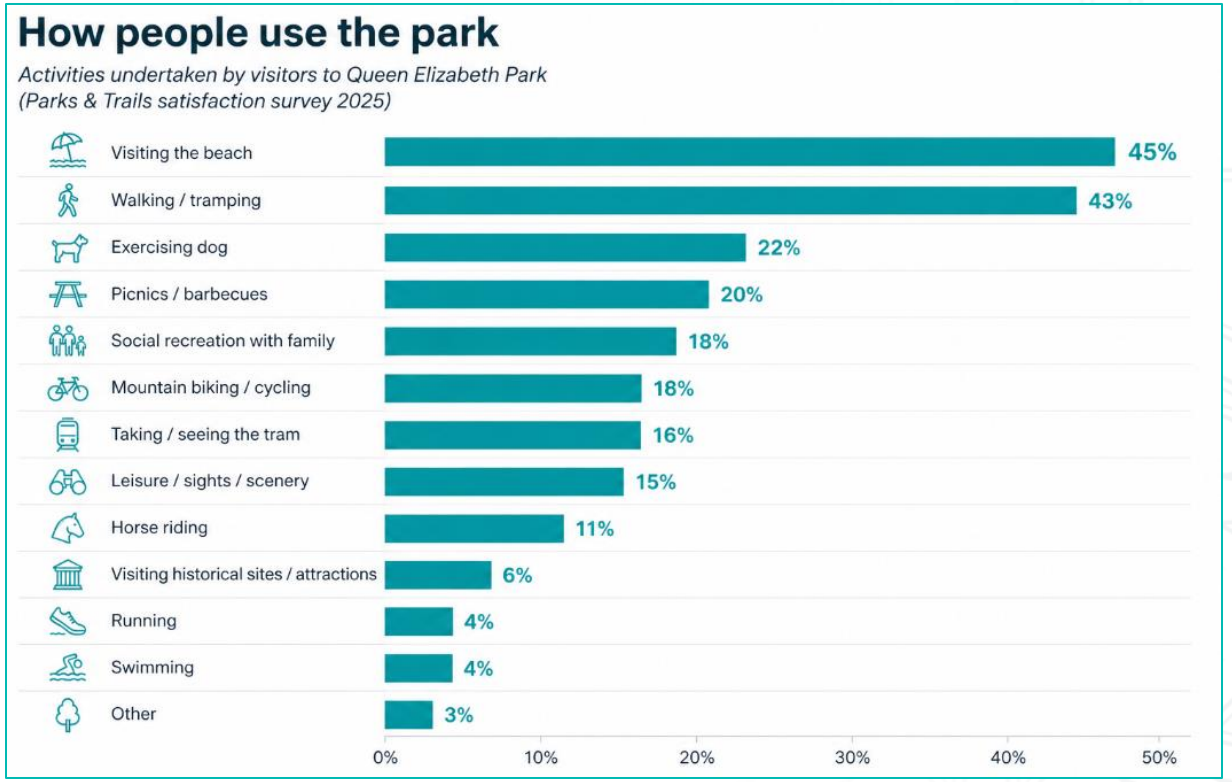


- 650ha park
- Most visited park with diverse activities
- Diverse landscape, dunes, wetlands, peatland, waterways
- Crown-owned& some Ngāti toa owned land at Wainui
- Cultural landscape (Rohe of Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Te Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai)

Direction in Toitū te Whenua

MASTER PLAN - OVERARCHING PRIORITY ACTION FOR PARK			
NOTE: Landscape master planning is proposed to develop a blueprint for the park encompassing and identifying wetland, dune land priorities, recreation facility and activity needs with a long-term horizon for restoration work			
A327	Develop a **landscape master plan** considering: • Restoration of wetlands, dune lands and vegetation throughout the park following science-led priorities and KNE plans • Where further site specific guidance for restoration is required • Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Te Ātiawa Whakarongotai aspirations for the land they own within the park • Natural hazard management including fire, flooding, buried ordinance, tsunami etc. • Additional 'Key destinations' (to those identified below) • Facilities such as trails, bird hides, storytelling, equestrian facilities relocated out of low lying areas • Exploring a range of adaptive conservation, recreation and community reuses of park buildings • Non-native amenity plantings where appropriate • Cultural site considerations in liaison with mana whenua • Opportunities for art in the park such as community initiatives or events, sculpture or nature play, mana whenua story telling • Opportunities for camping	High Priority Short	New QEP collaboration group, Mana whenua, KCDC, HNZPT, park, community groups, local schools, others

Partnership with mana whenua Context

How we're working together

- Shared site visits, hui, and design workshops
- Ongoing review of draft material
- Iterative development of the plan

What this has shaped

- Shared values framework
- Restoration as a priority
- Draft cultural expression across the park
- Spatial representation and narrative of the whenua

Cultural landscape

Understanding Whareroa as a connected cultural landscape

Reference: Reproduction of Carkeek 1996 from Cultural values assessment for Takutai

Ngati Toa land redress

Use of the Paekakariki Beach Highway, c.1840s.[24]
[Brees, Samuel Charles] 1810-1865 :[Group of Maori and pakeha near beach, probably Paekakariki looking towards Pukerua. Between 1842 and 1845]. Alexander Turnbull Library. B-031-004

- Multiple pā, including Whareroa Pā and Wainui Pā, alongside wāhi tapu and wāhi tūpuna across the landscape
- Strong relationships between coast, waterways, mahinga kai, maara kai, pātaka (storehouse for food)
- Layered stories/ complex history of travel, settlement, conflict, land alienation and changing ownership
- Enduring relationship

<u>Key take aways:</u>

- A place of high cultural significance and that presence and identity could be stronger
- Te Taiao/restoration as a number one priority

Special interest group workshops

Engagement Approach

- 12 targeted sessions in September to November led by Thrive
- Key user groups and agencies identified by Toitū te whenua.
- Representatives from key stakeholder groups met with rangers and Thrive Spaces and Places in person

Stakeholder engagement sessions	
Eventing Wellington	Kāpiti Pony
Friends of QEP	Kāpiti Repo Restoration Group
Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga	Nursery and Restoration Group
Kāpiti Aero Modelers ‘ Club	Wellington Tramway Musuem
Kapiti Marines Trust	Department of Conservation
Kāpiti Mountain Bike Club	Kāpiti Coast District Council

Stakeholder engagement themes

Detailed and diverse aspirations were shared, with strong alignment across some key themes

Restoration as the priority

- Strong support for large-scale wetland, dune, and peatland restoration

Better access and connections

- Better walking, cycling, and links to the wider regional network

Inclusive recreation and visitor experience

- Accessible, family-friendly, and diverse ways to experience the park

Mana whenua presence and cultural expression

- Stronger visibility of identity, history, and cultural narratives

Balancing competing land uses

- Tensions between restoration and existing uses (e.g. equestrian)

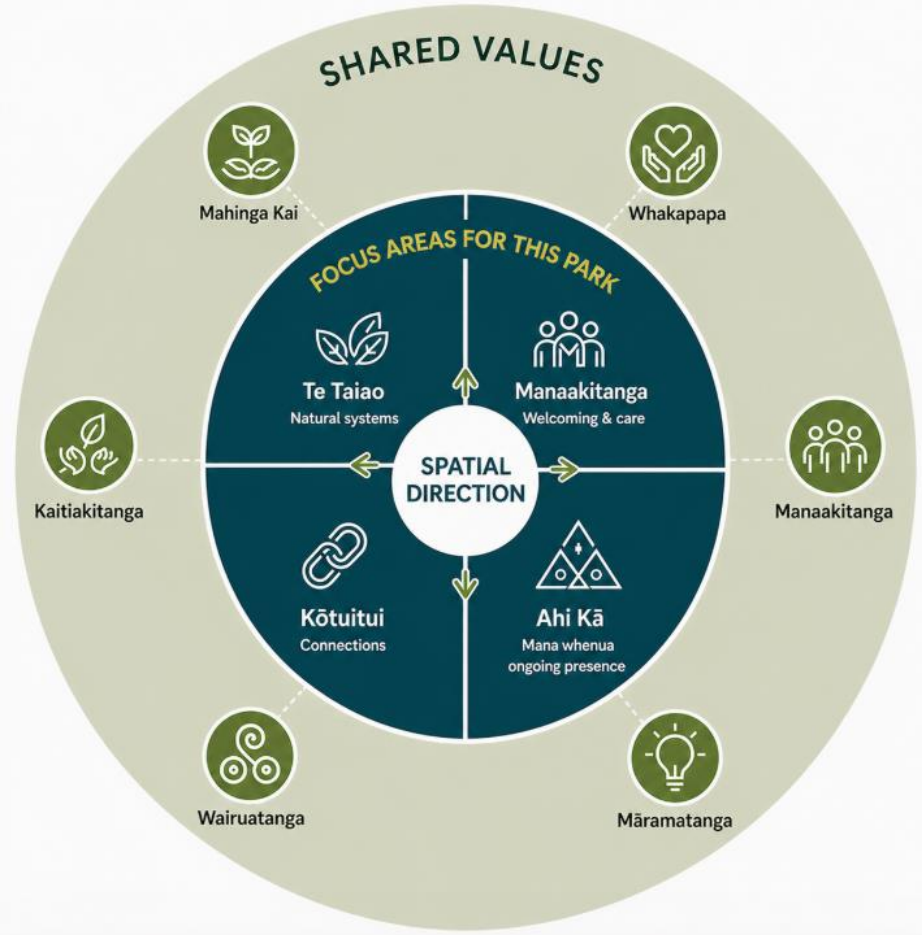
Operational and delivery considerations

- Need for practical, fundable, and maintainable solutions

Draft emerging directions framework

Translating feedback and partnership into a spatial direction

From what we heard → how we are responding



- Values are embedded across the framework. Guiding decisions at every level. Values have been developed in partnership with mana whenua.
- Focus areas bring these values into practice.
- This creates the overall spatial direction.
- Consistent with Toitū te Whenua

Draft/Emerging: Shared Values

Developed in partnership with mana whenua

Focus 1: Te Taiao

Natural Systems

- Contains regionally significant dunes, wetlands, peatlands and waterways
- Opportunity for regional exemplar
- Te taiao as the primary driver for change
- Restore and reconnect from the coast to the mountains
- Supporting mahinga kai, climate resilience and biodiversity
- Mix of natural restoration and planting

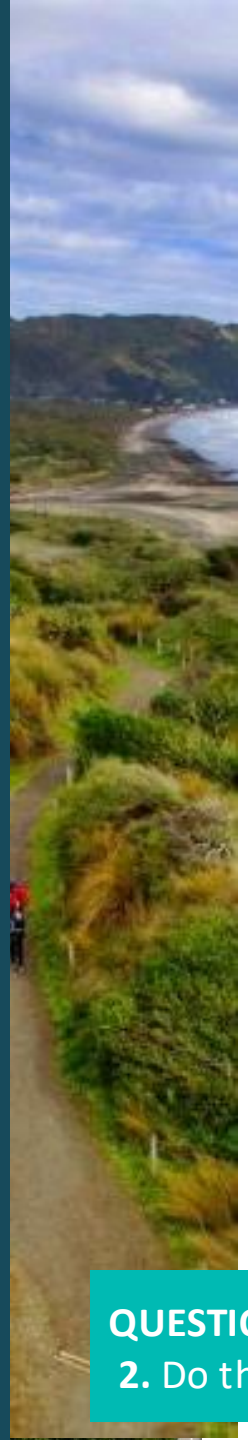
Coastal dune systems

Wetlands and waterways

Regenerating native vegetation

QUESTION

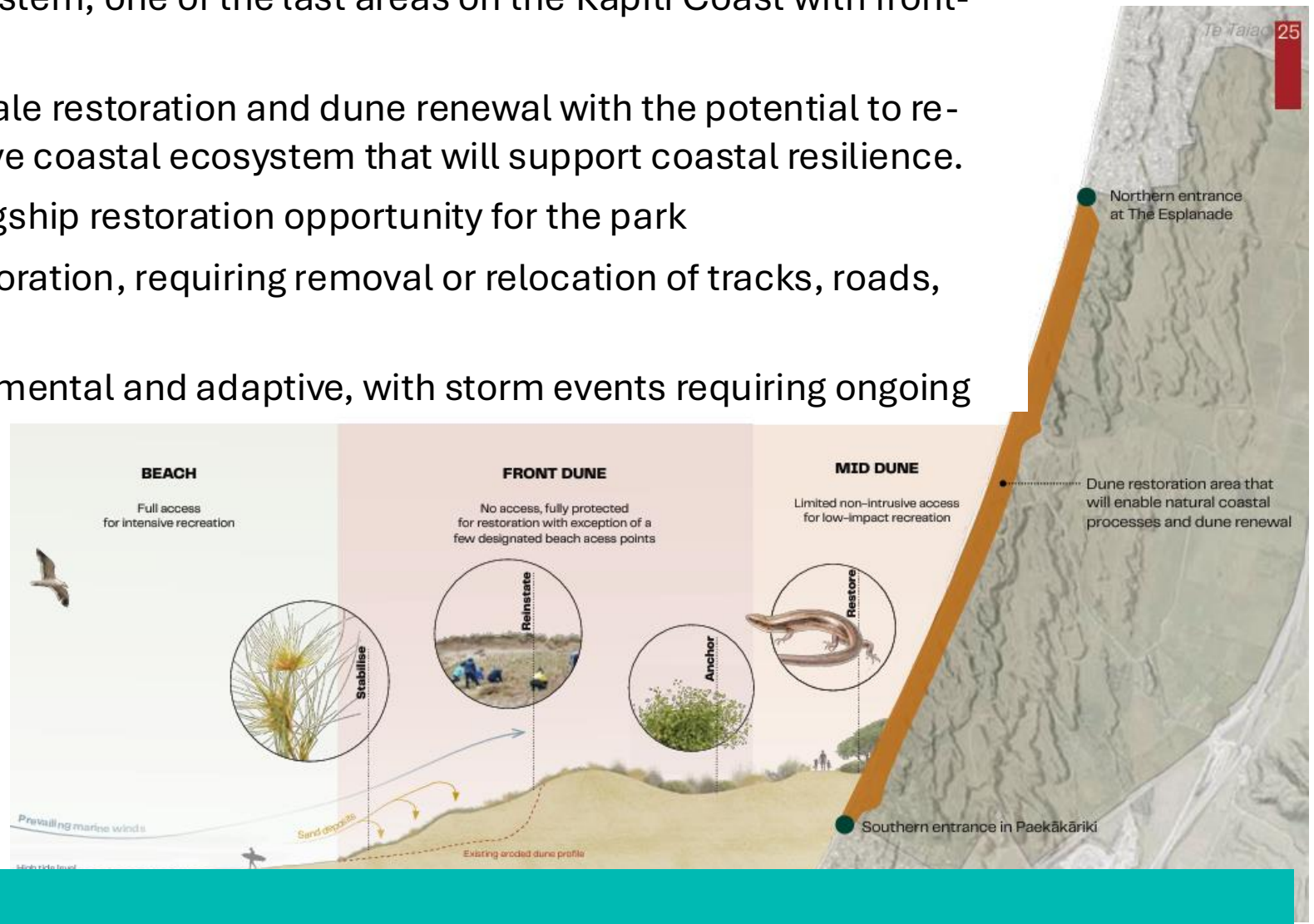
1. Does the proposed Te Taiao direction appropriately implement the scale and ambition for ecological restoration set out in Toitū Te Whenua across Queen Elizabeth Park? Any other comments or concerns?



Dunes

- A 3.5km coastal dune system, one of the last areas on the Kāpiti Coast with front-to-back dunes
- Opportunity for large-scale restoration and dune renewal with the potential to re-establish a representative coastal ecosystem that will support coastal resilience.
- A unique habitat and flagship restoration opportunity for the park
- Space is needed for restoration, requiring removal or relocation of tracks, roads, parking, and structures
- Restoration will be incremental and adaptive, with storm events requiring ongoing rework over time

Trade-off: More space for dunes = less space for access and built infrastructure.



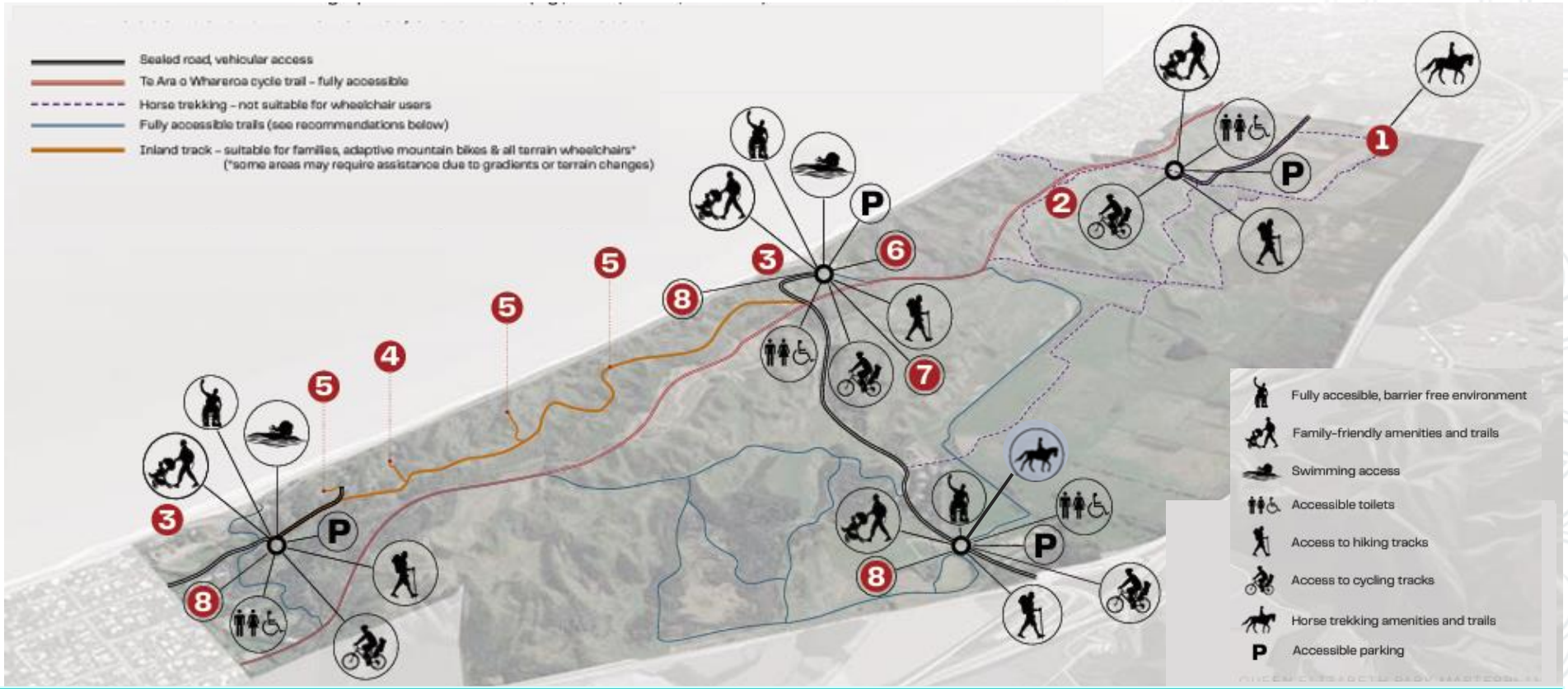
QUESTION

2. Do the proposed changes to dune management and coastal access strike the right balance, or are there any key concerns?

Focus 2: Kōtuitui

Connection people, place & landscapes

- Simplification
- Shifting north-south movement to beach and inland
- Accessible inland routes
- Strengthening connections /routes around Mackay crossing and Wainui
- Explore opportunities for public transport connections (e.g. train / tram access) into the park



QUESTIONS

3. What is Councillor feedback on the proposed direction for a simpler and easier-to-navigate movement network across the park, including reducing duplicate and informal tracks?
4. What is Councillor feedback on a vision of making Queen Elizabeth Park the most Accessible Regional Park?
5. What is Councillor feedback on the investigation of a long term aspiration for a rail/tram connection at QEP?

Focus 3: Manaakitanga

Welcoming & Care

- Focus on how people arrive, access and experience the park
- Inclusive, accessible experiences for a wide range of users
- Support a range of experiences, from active hubs to quieter areas

Mackays Crossing (Primary regional gateway)

- Main regional arrival hub
- Facilities, parking, information and services
- Potential future train / tram connection
- Supports higher activity and events

Whareroa Stream (Coastal Arrival)

- Popular for beach use
- cultural significance
- Shift to walking / cycling access (less vehicle access)
- Focus on dune restoration and protection

Wainui (South/Paekākāriki)

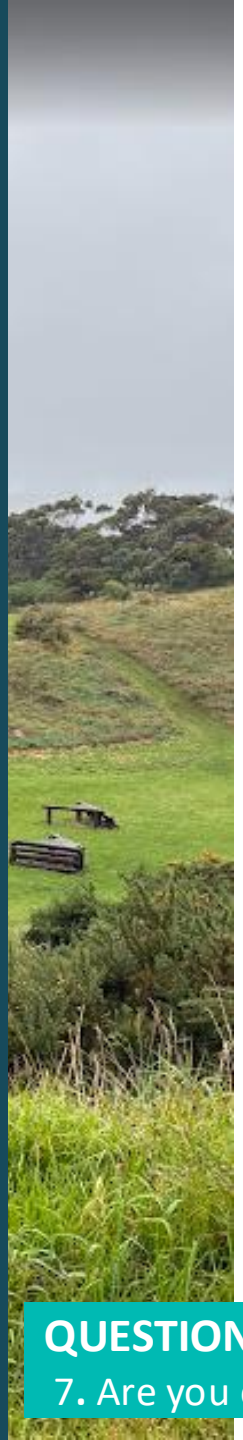
- Local community access
- Area of high cultural significance
- Improved access, paths and parking
- Supports restoration and everyday use

Northern Entrance (Poplar Avenue)

- Access to quieter and restoration areas
- Focus on wetlands / peatland restoration
- Horse access and trail connection
- Future learning and interpretation hub

QUESTION

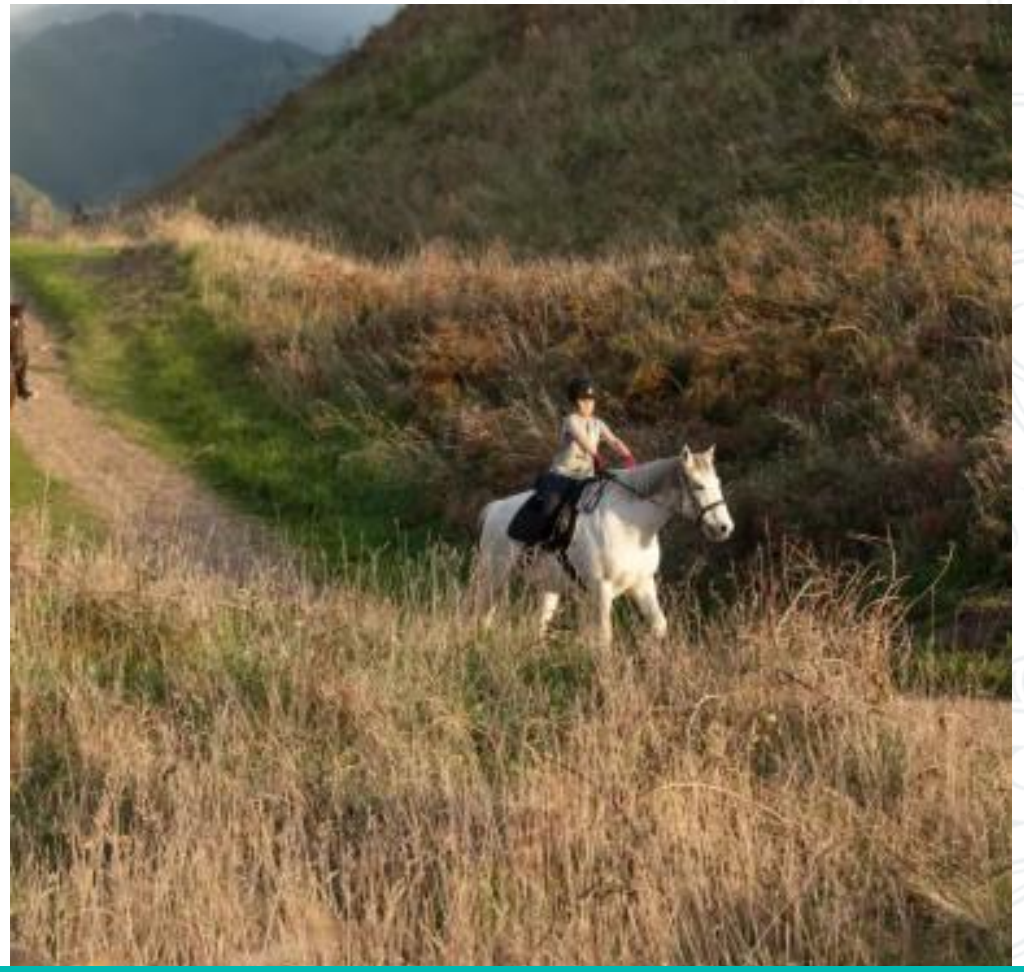
6. Does the proposed direction to focus activity and investment in the identified key arrival areas and destinations feel appropriate? Any comments or concerns?



Equestrian Activity

Providing for different types of equestrian use within a changing landscape

- Equestrian use is a valued and established part of the park
- Continued support for horse trekking and recreational riding
- Future focus of equestrian activity at the northern end (Poplar Avenue)
- No proposal to expand on eventing facilities.
  (Other conversations are being held about other eventing capacity in Kapiti).
- Explore shared and seasonal use of open space eventing areas
- Pony club continues in the short–medium term, with a longer-term transition anticipated as restoration continues.



QUESTION

7. Are you comfortable with consulting on the proposed direction for equestrian use?

Focus 4: Ahi Kā

Mana whenua ongoing connection to place

- Integrating mana whenua narratives
- Providing for cultural practices
- Name restoration to Whareroa
- Key location of identification – whare wānanga, star compass
- Protecting wāhi tapu and wāhi tupuna
- Shifting stories

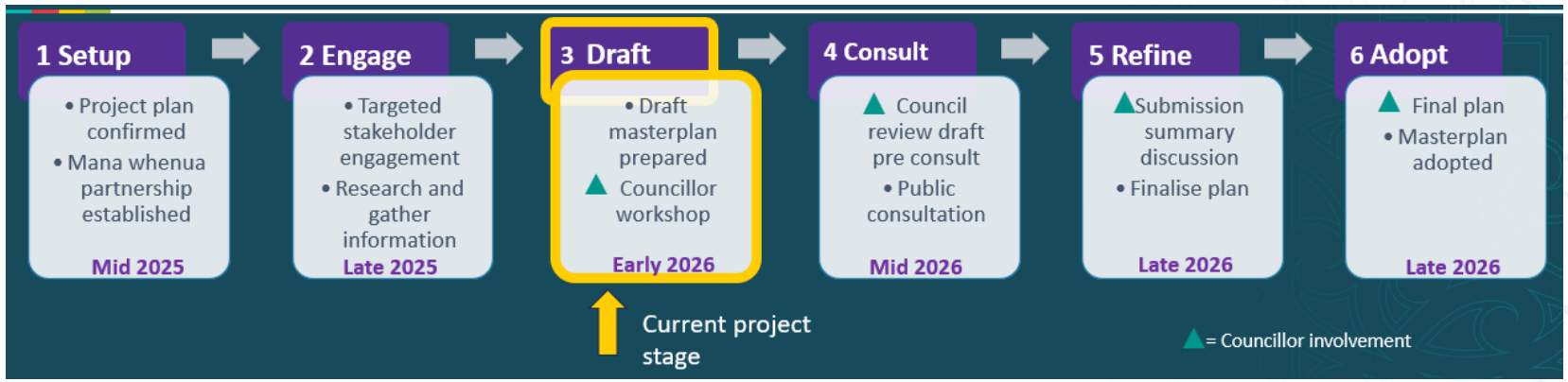
Questions

8. What is Councillor feedback on the proposed direction to strengthen mana whenua presence and cultural expression across the park?

Next steps

From emerging direction to draft plan

- Refine feedback into a draft
- Continue to partner with Mana Whenua
- Return to councillors with a draft before going out for public consultation

Public Consultation Approach

- Have Your Say (online survey)
- Summary material & visuals
- Drop-in sessions (local + in-park)
- Communications (social, media release, email, video, signage on parks)