

Taharoa Domain operations update for April 2020 to June 2020

Meeting: Taharoa Domain Governance Committee
Date of meeting: 11 August 2020
Reporting officer: Hamish Watson, Parks and Recreation Manager

Purpose/Ngā whāinga

To report the operational update for the Taharoa Domain (Kai Iwi Lakes) for the April 2020 to June 2020 period to keep the Committee well informed.

Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga

Below is a summary of activities, operations and maintenance work carried out over the months of April 2020 to June 2020.

Recommendation/Ngā tūtohunga

That the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee:

- a) Notes the Taharoa Domain operations update report for April to June 2020.

Context/Horopaki

The Kai Iwi Lakes are among the best-known dune lakes in New Zealand. It is the intent of the Kai Iwi Lakes (Taharoa Domain) Reserve Management Plan (RMP) to enable the Lakes and its surrounds to be enjoyed by all visitors while simultaneously enhancing the area and reducing risks through knowledge and active management.

Discussion/Ngā kōrerorero

Health and Safety:

- Staff have engaged Fear-free to do a security review of Taharoa Domain and provide recommendations to Council.
- Domain was closed over COVID-19 Level 4 and Level 3.

General:

- Council received funding through the Te Tai Tokerau Redeployment Package from Central Government, this funding is for maintenance of Reserves, a substantial amount of the funding has been allocated to the Taharoa Domain, staff are working with Te Roroa and a local contractor to implement this work.
- Planting has continued over the past months, with approximately 10,000 natives planted.
- Powered sites are now mapped so when campers are booking they can specify the site they want.
- Northland Regional Council (NRC) Stage 1 of the wilding conifer control is nearly completed, the drill and fill part of the operation is finished with the trees first treated in mid-May beginning to brown off. They are now sweeping back through to pick up any missed trees and then they will start on felling any trees within 20 meters of a track. Plan attached of area treated so far. **Attachment A**

- NRC, KDC and Te Roroa staff are still working on the operational pest plant control plan with the final draft expected August.
- We have seen an increase in camper numbers compared to previous years of this period, this will be due to no overseas travel and an increase in campervan hire domestically.
- Radio controlled sail boats had an event in June, they are hoping to come back in February.
- Upcoming summer bookings are selling fast, with Promenade Point sold out for Christmas, New Year and Anniversary weekend, Pine Beach still has few ono-powered sites available.
- Schools are booking in their annual camps.

Next quarter projects:

- Investigate removing old toilet block at Sandy Bay.
- Bollard installation at Lake Waikare.
- Work to begin on converting the changing rooms at Pine Beach to toilets.
- Ongoing grounds maintenance.

Upcoming Events:

- Sport Northland Kai Iwi Lakes Trail Run event is being held on 04 October 2020, all H&S and Traffic Management Plans (TMP) have been submitted.
- Fish & Game annual trout fishing contest is to be held 03 and 04 October 2020.
- Rabbit control is taking place 10-14 August, this should only take 2 nights but we have allowed 4 nights for weather, they may need to return September if needed.
- A toxin operation is planned October 2020 for possum and rat control.

Policy and planning implications

It is the Park and Recreation Manager's responsibility to ensure all operations are conducted within budget.

Financial implications

The financial budgets are set within the Long Term Plan and respective Annual Plan.

Risks and mitigations

The RMP was developed using a public process and reflects the views of the community and other stakeholders at the time of its development.

Significance and engagement/Hirahira me ngā whakapāpā

The decisions or matters of this report do not trigger the significance criteria outlined in Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, and the public will be informed via agenda on the website.

Next steps/E whaiake nei

Council staff will continue to implement the RMP and agreed forward works plan.

Attachments/Ngā tapiritanga

	Title
A	Stage one wilding conifer plan