

Taharoa Domain operations update for November 2020 to January 2021

Meeting: Taharoa Domain Governance Committee
Date of meeting: 9 February 2021
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 November 2020 to January 2021 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 November 2020 to January 2021.

Recommendation/Ngā tūtohunga

That the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee:

- a) Notes the Taharoa Domain operations update report for November 2020 to January 2021.

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.

Operational activities include:

- The Kai Iwi Campground (KDC)
- Taharoa Domain (KDC)
- Northland Regional Council (NRC) Activities
- Department of Conservation (DoC)

Discussion/Ngā kōrerorero

Health and Safety:

- Ongoing issues with dogs, jet skis, boats, and speeding vehicles. Staff are working with relevant departments internally and externally to resolve these issues, these include KDC media team, Animal Management, NRC, and Police.

Environmental:

- Council have collaborated with NRC and DoC over the summer period to help educate visitors and campers about environmental impacts on the lakes and to monitor for any environmental risks that may happen, this has included having additional staff monitoring the domain, lakes and visitor activities, some additional posters advising people of environmental risks and impacts have also been put up around the Taharoa Domain.
- Staff have been in contact with NRC regarding the dropping lake level. Discussions are being had regarding allowable water takes.

Operational Activities:

- The campground is now being managed by the Customer Experience Team who can provide better support to the staff and customer, with Parks focusing on the Domain and operations.
- Staff have seen an increase in day visitors using the Domain with the general behaviour of the people being good and everyone enjoying the beautiful weather, apart from the few who keep flouting the rules.
- Wastewater discharge Resource Consent parameters were not breached over the holiday period, the treatment plant managed with the flows and no odour complaints. Flow data is attached. (Attachment A)
- Water Take Resource Consent, we had one exceedance by 2 cubic meters over the allowed 50m³/day, other than that no other exceedances were recorded. (Attachment B)

Kai Iwi Campground:

- Crate day on Saturday 5th December caused quite a few issues with lots turning up to camp and excessive drinking going on while others were there to just enjoy a break, this is not an issue just isolated to the Taharoa Domain, seems to be across New Zealand. Staff are looking at options to eliminate or isolate these issues next year. This may include just closing the campground for that weekend.
- Again high numbers of campers with the camp being full from 23rd December, no major issues just the usual few who try to continue making noise after hours or being a bit rowdy, staff have dealt with this really well and generally it appears everyone has really enjoyed their stay.

Improvement Programme:

- No physical works have been completed over this period due to the number of people visiting as this would cause to many H&S issues, staff have just continued with planning.
- The Te Tai Tokerau Redeployment Package work finished on the 18th December with great work being done across the Domain to remove pest plants.

Next quarter activity:

- Whitebait connection are looking to host their event that was cancelled last year due to Covid 19 on the 20th March 2021. (Attachment C)
- Continue with actions from security review.
- Continue to implement capital works programme.
- Ongoing Domain maintenance

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	Wastewater flow data
B	Water Take data
C	Whitebait Connection event plan