



# South Rangitata Reserve Management Plan

Consultation Draft

Photo Source: Google Earth

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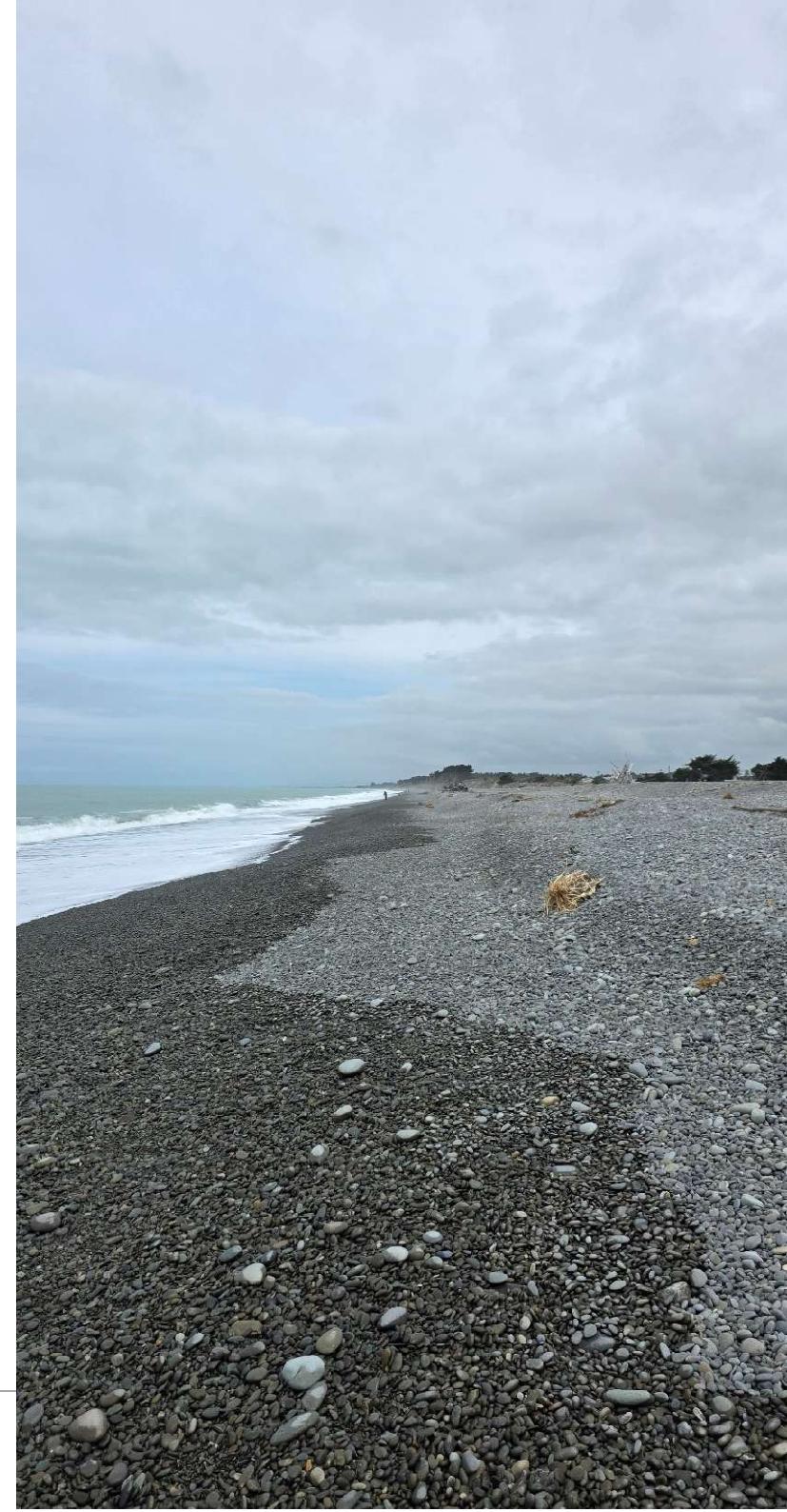
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# **SOUTH RANGITATA RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

This Management Plan for the South Rangitata Reserve has been prepared in accordance with the procedures set out in Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977.

Public notice of intention to review the Management Plan was given on 20 February 2025.

The Draft Management Plan is prepared for public consultation in accordance with Section 120 of the Act.





## 1 PREAMBLE

South Rangitata Reserve is a multi-purpose recreational reserve located in the Timaru District rural area. All land areas are gazetted under the Reserves Act 1977. The Reserve is one of many recreational public open spaces administered by the Timaru District Council.

Most of the South Rangitata Reserve is in a developed state and meets the needs of the users. Any further changes would aim to enhance the natural characteristics of this Reserve.

This Management Plan contains a description of South Rangitata Reserve, its general resource information and an expression of management objectives, policies and implementation practices considered suitable for its ongoing management.

It is against these objectives and policies that specific proposals can be assessed. The policies have been designed to provide a positive direction for management, but flexible enough to adapt to changing conditions. It is not intended to comprehensively review this Management Plan before at least 10 years following its adoption.



## 2 INTRODUCTION



## 2.1 Purpose

The purpose of this Reserve Management Plan (RMP) is to provide for the management of the South Rangitata Reserve, in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977 and other relevant legislation. The RMP contains details of how the Reserve should be managed, what activities it should cater for, and what facilities and services would be provided, for which the Reserve is classified.

## 2.2 Location

South Rangitata Reserve is located on the south side of the Rangitata River mouth, about 45 kilometres by road northeast of Timaru.

## 2.3 Access

Vehicle access is obtained from Rangitata Huts Road, off Orton Rangitata Mouth Road.

## 2.4 Legal Description

The classified land is contained within South Rangitata Reserve 5266 Block IV Kapunatiki Survey District and is vested in Timaru District Council.

## 2.5 Area

The area of vested land is 9.3077 hectares.

## 2.6 Status

The vested land listed has been classified as a Local Purpose (soil conservation and fishing huts) Reserve in accordance with Section 23 of the Reserves Act 1977. This was published in the New Zealand Gazette 1997 No 70, p1707. The land is zoned as Recreation 1 (REC 1) under

the current Operative Timaru District Plan, and Open Space Zone (OSZ) in the Proposed Timaru District Plan.

## 2.7 History

In 1890 there were just a handful of small, simple one roomed huts at the mouth. These were privately owned and erected haphazardly without authorisation from any official party. The hut owners were mainly “landed gentry” with strong outdoor sporting interests. At that time, the reserve was controlled by the South Canterbury Acclimatisation Society.

The river mouth lay to the south of the huts at that time and water was obtained from holes dug in the shingle along its bank. The south channel of the Rangitata was also flowing and numerous small streams flowed across the surrounding farmland. A swamp fed by one such stream occupied the land previously used as a camping ground. This branch of the river was closed in the late 1920’s.

In the 1930’s, except on sites occupied by huts, large tussocks grew, and areas of swamp were located in the former camping ground and small low-lying areas at the river end of the Reserve. Horses were turned loose to graze the Reserve. In the 1930’s the eastern boundary of the Reserve consisted of very substantial sand dunes, the remnants of which have been preserved by marram grass introduced after migration of the river southwards, thus exposing the dunes to erosion of winds. Prior to this event, the beach gravels were at the same level as the adjoining land.

In the late 1930’s, the river carved a channel along the eastern boundary and evidence of this remains in what is left of a very substantial lagoon when the river shifted northwards. This event lowered the water tables causing swamp in Reserves 5266, 100, 486 and adjoining leasehold land to drain, while domestic water supplies drawn through manually operated



1985-1989



1995-1999



2005-2009



2010-2014



2015-2019



2020-2024

Douglas pumps were lost. This was remedied by driving well pipes to a greater depth or sinking new wells. Initially water was available at about 12 feet (3.6 metres) but after southward migration the depth increased to 20 feet (6 metres).

It may be significant that this event occurred about the same time as the commissioning of the Rangitata Diversion Race in 1937.

Transport was the main factor limiting hut development. Roads in the area were very rough and often impassable in bad weather. Horse and dray and early model motorcars were a slow means of travel, meaning a journey from Geraldine took the best part of a day. Real settlement did not take place until after the Second World War and even then, huts were still “slapped up” without much planning. The Acclimatisation Society, (who held the reserve on occupation licence), leased “hut sites” to its members.

Over the years, the river mouth has regularly migrated between the huts and either side of the estuary with the northern end being favoured. However, for one or more periods in the 1960’s the river did discharge through mouths to the south of the South Rangitata huts.

In 1968 the purpose of the reserve was changed, “from a reserve for river protection purposes to a reserve for soil conservation and river control purposes, recreation and site for fishing huts.”

The Geraldine County Council was appointed to control and manage the reserve. In July 1969, the Geraldine County Council surveyed sites around the existing huts. The remaining area, except for the former camping ground, was divided into further sites, which have subsequently been built upon. Organisation in the reserve’s layout has been a very recent phenomenon.

In 1974 Geraldine County was amalgamated with neighbouring Levels County to form Strathallan County. In 1989 Strathallan County was amalgamated with Geraldine Borough, Temuka Borough and Timaru City to form Timaru District. The Timaru District Council now administers the South Rangitata Reserve.

Between 1992 and 2020, there were multiple known occasions of coastal storm and flood events that were recorded, where floodwaters affected the Reserve, its access roads, and the hut settlement.

Figure 1: [Canterbury Flood Model Results](#) (Source: [Canterbury Maps](#))



## 2.8 Geomorphology

Most of the South Rangitata Reserve area is typical Canterbury alluvial pasture land, comprised of light stony soils. At the southern end of the Reserve, the old river boundary comprising of an escarpment with better quality overlying topsoil is present.

Being located on the true right bank of the Rangitata River adjacent to the river mouth, the Reserve is located on a series of terraces rising progressively in a south westerly direction away from the river to the escarpment.

## 2.9 Flora and Fauna

The exposed nature of the reserve and its proximity to the sea, dictates what plants occur on the Reserve. A swampy area at the northern end contains coprosmas, flaxes, toitoi, and similar plants, while the eastern beach boundary is protected by marram grass. Various macrocarpas and pines planted in hedges or as single trees have grown well, and a selection of introduced species can be found in and around the various hut sites. Significant grassed areas are present around the huts.

More recent Council plantings (mid 1990's onwards) are comprised of native coastal species aimed at providing shelter and wildlife habitat, and these are located along the southern and eastern boundaries and west of the toilet at the northern end of the reserve.

Fauna is restricted to birds of which several native and introduced species can be found. Rabbits, hares, feral pigeons, and the occasional feral cat can be observed.

## **2.10 Climate**

The climate of coastal Canterbury is mild and stable. Temperature variations during the year are not extreme. Rainfall is variable but is usually at around 480 to 720mm (20 to 30in) annually. The area is consequently quite dry, with low humidity all year round. The predominant wind is the easterly but exposed as it is, the area is subject to both nor'westers and southerlies with the latter yielding most of the rain.

## **2.11 Adjacent Land Use**

East - Pacific Ocean and shingle beach which separates the reserve from the sea.

South - There is mostly open farmland along the south perimeter of South Rangitata Reserve.

West - Environment Canterbury Reserve adjoining. This is currently occupied under licence by South Rangitata Reserve Incorporated and is available as a useful adjunct to this Reserve. The additional land also provides power supply lines, water supply mains and the bore. It also provides a fire break. Also to the west is farmland.

North - Environment Canterbury Reserve adjoining the Rangitata River. The Rangitata River and coastal environment are significant to

the Tangata Whenua, and this Reserve provides access to those places.

## **2.12 Resource Analysis**

South Rangitata Reserve contributes to the reserves network within the Timaru District. It provides necessary room for accommodation and recreational pursuits. The vegetation within the reserve helps ameliorate the extremes of the environment for man by providing shade, shelter, and a habitat for wildlife.

The Reserve area is of significance to lessees who have invested financially and with their physical efforts to building accommodation within the Reserve. Campers and day visitors also use the Reserve area. Most of these visitors use it as a base or for access to the river mouth to fish for salmon and trout. The extent of use is therefore greater during the fishing season and particularly when salmon are running. The Reserve is also popular over holiday periods for those attempting to get away from their daily routine. Over the winter months there is a reduction in use to a few individuals.

## **2.13 Present Use**

At the time of writing, the Reserve contains a total of 113 private huts. Another one is located within the adjacent unformed legal road. The huts were all established as holiday accommodation, being used for fishing at various times through the year. For the remainder of the year the area is almost deserted, save for some

permanent residents. Use is dependent on the “quality” of the fishing and location of the river mouth. A braided river of such a size is constantly changing its course. When the mouth moves towards the north, some people tend to favour the northern side.

## 2.14 Plan Hierarchy

Under the Resource Management Act 1991 a number of other plans exist, and this Reserve Management Plan cannot be inconsistent with them. The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement is at the highest level. This statement covers such policies as preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment; protection of characteristics of special value to the Tangata Whenua; activities involving subdivision, use or development of the coastal environment; the Crown’s interests in land in the Coastal Marine Area and matters to be included in Regional Coastal Plans.

Various Regional Policies and Plans have application in this area. These plans control such matters as effluent disposal and the erection of buildings within the coastal inundation and future erosion areas as well as proximity to the river. They also contain policies directed at encouraging public access to and along rivers and the coast and avoiding or reducing the impacts of natural hazards. The Timaru District Plan, specifically the Recreation 1 Zone policies; General Rule for Natural Hazards and areas of significance to Māori, and finally this Reserve Management Plan is specific to the Reserve.





### 3 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 To retain the South Rangitata Reserve for the enjoyment and recreational use of the district's residents and visitors.
- 3.2 To administer South Rangitata Reserve in accordance with relevant acts, bylaws, policies, and regulations including National Policy Statements, Regional Plans, the Timaru District Plan.
- 3.3 To maintain the appropriate level of presentation in South Rangitata Reserve, and to ensure these specified maintenance standards are achieved.
- 3.4 To maintain access to South Rangitata Reserve as a recreational resource.
- 3.5 To preserve natural environment and soil conservation values within the Reserve (e.g. flora, fauna, and their habitats), and to increase public awareness of these.
- 3.6 To provide attractive open spaces that are part of the network set aside for enhancing the quality of life for residents.
- 3.7 To provide an environment that allows for family activities within the Reserve.
- 3.8 To retain Hut sites within the Reserve, where it is safe to do so, and to lease these sites.
- 3.9 To provide ancillary services such as carparking, public toilets and roads to support the major objectives above, without detracting from them individually.
- 3.10 To maintain an awareness of and preparedness for flooding events that may affect the settlement.
- 3.11 To acknowledge the dynamic nature of the coastline and river, potential erosion and long term retreat.
- 3.12 To acknowledge the natural hazard risk of the site.





## 4 MANAGEMENT POLICIES

## 4.1 Management

To retain management of Reserve 5266 with the Timaru District Council.

### Policy

To manage this Reserve in a manner complying with the Management Plan.

### Explanation

The Timaru District Council has overall responsibility for the management of the South Rangitata Reserve. The management is vested in Council by the Minister of Conservation under the Reserves Act 1977, and use of the Reserve must comply with the terms of vesting.

### Implementation

The Timaru District Council will continue to manage this Reserve. Liaison with Environment Canterbury, Department of Conservation and other agencies will be undertaken where the management role overlaps their responsibilities and requires or would benefit from their input.

Figure 2: New Zealand Gazette - Classification of a Reserve, (10 July 1997, Page 1707-1708)

### Classification of a Reserve

Pursuant to the Reserves Act 1977, and to a delegation from the Minister of Conservation, the Regional Conservator, Canterbury, hereby classifies the reserve described in the Schedule hereto, as a local purpose (soil conservation and fishing huts) reserve, subject to the provisions of the said Act.

### Schedule

#### *Canterbury Land District—Timaru District*

9.3077 hectares, more or less, being Reserve 5266. All *New Zealand Gazette*, 1885, page 590, and *New Zealand Gazette*, 1968, page 1285. S.O. 1019.

Dated at Christchurch this 24th day of June 1997.

M. J. CUDDIHY, Regional Conservator, Canterbury.

(DOC D.O. RSL 017)

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## 4.2 Bylaws

### Policy

To prepare and enforce Timaru District Consolidated Bylaw for the use of South Rangitata Reserve.

### Explanation

The current bylaws applying to Parks and Reserves in the Timaru District shall apply to South Rangitata Reserve.

### Implementation

In cases where non-compliance occurs and/or damage results, Council will seek prosecution and/or appropriate restitution.

## 4.3 Reserves Network

### Policy

To provide a “green” open space as part of the Parks network of the Timaru District.

### Explanation

South Rangitata Reserve forms part of the Parks network for the Timaru District, providing access to open spaces and affording a site to establish coastal vegetation.

### Implementation

South Rangitata Reserve will continue to form part of the Parks network for the Timaru District.

This public use right shall be maintained to all open spaces, (excluding the leased sites) except during times that recreational or community events are taking place. Members of the public must not interfere with such activities, but will be permitted to view these events, except when the area concerned is closed to the public, or individuals make a nuisance of themselves or behave in an obnoxious manner.

## 4.4 Maintenance

### Policy

To maintain South Rangitata Reserve in a properly functioning manner, and in accordance with the Management Objectives of this Management Plan.

### Explanation

To maintain its status as a reserve for “soil conservation and fishing huts”, it is important to ensure the Reserve is always maintained to the specified Rural Parks standard.

### Implementation

The Reserve will be maintained to the standard specified for Rural Parks. Where vandalism damage occurs, prosecution and/or appropriate reparation will be sought.

## 4.5 Natural Hazard Mitigation

### Policy

To ensure that permanent structures and critical infrastructure are sited in locations that are not subject to erosion or significant inundation.

### Explanation

Dynamic coastline and river courses can alter the Reserve’s proximity to the ocean or river. Coastal inundation is likely to occur at time of high seas and storm swells. It is also impacted by the

amount of shingle build-up on the beach, which can increase or erode. This will be particularly noticeable in lower lying areas or where there is active erosion. It also will be impacted by the position of the river mouth. As of writing of this Management Plan, there is currently no mechanism for cost sharing to facilitate managed retreat.

### **Implementation**

Where it becomes desirable or necessary a managed retreat approach will be used. Council will enable this through a flexible approach to leases when buildings are removed or relocated. Managed retreat will be triggered by actual or likely inundation and/or erosion from the sea or river.

## **4.6 Services**

### **Policy**

To provide for infrastructural services to meet the needs of the Reserve users.

### **Explanation**

Any infrastructural services that benefit the use of the Reserve will be provided for where these are necessary and do not compromise the Management Objectives of the Reserve. These services shall include an access road, public toilet, and water supply. In addition, telephone and electricity are supplied to individual users by their preferred supplier on a contractual basis. However, where these services are of no direct benefit to users of the Reserve, the Council's consent will continue to be required before an easement can be obtained. Water is presently supplied to the Reserve.

### **Implementation**

Where an organisation or individual wishes to make use of these services it shall be their responsibility to arrange the connection to these services, after necessary approvals have





been obtained. Once connections are established it is the responsibility of the person or organisation benefitting from the services to pay the charges incurred. Of particular concern is effluent disposal, which must be to a holding tank and/or comply with National Standards and Regional Policies and Rules. Recycling and refuse disposal shall occur off the site via transfer stations or approved landfills.

## 4.7 Usage Zones

### Policy

To designate a series of Usage Zones within South Rangitata Reserve.

### Explanation

To optimise use, leased huts, and public open space zones have been created to accommodate different types of activities and allow for differing management techniques.

### Implementation

Activities shall be constrained to the appropriate zone.

## 4.8 Recreational Uses and Community Events

### Policy

To provide areas and facilities suitable for a range of recreational uses and community events.

### Explanation

South Rangitata Reserve is used by groups and individuals on a regular or casual basis.

### **Implementation**

Where an event is organised, consideration must be given to other users of the Reserve.

## **4.9 Closure to the Public**

### **Policy**

To allow an admission charge to be levied to certain events and facilities.

### **Explanation**

On occasions and with approval it will be possible to close part of the Reserve to the public for the purpose of holding an event. An admission charge may be made for people to attend the event.

### **Implementation**

All such closures and admission charges shall be approved by the Timaru District Council.

## **4.10 Tenure**

### **Policy**

Council will consider applications to lease hut sites at South Rangitata Reserve, which comply with the objectives of this plan.

### **Explanation**

The area of lease shall be defined as an individual hut site, the fire station or other facility for community benefit. Conditions of leases

may be updated at the time of expiry with consideration of renewal or review. At the termination of the lease, Council may require the removal or forfeit of improvements, for which compensation will not automatically be paid and costs of clean up may be incurred.

No further hut sites will be developed within the Reserve.

### **Implementation**

For any period of tenure at South Rangitata Reserve a lease or agreement complying with the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977, or its amendments must be entered into with Council. The rental will be set in accordance with the current policy on charges applying to this Reserve, or by public tender. It is not intended to publicly advertise all leases.

The Reserve is used primarily for fishing huts.

Over time, it may be necessary to not renew, or cancel some leases because of coastal erosion or inundation, or by river erosion or flooding. This would be in addition to cancellations for non-compliance with lease clauses.

## **4.11 Temporary Accommodation (e.g. Caravans / Motor Homes)**

### **Policy**

To restrict the use of caravans and motor homes to within leased sites (with conditions) or within any designated camping area.

## Explanation

An area may be specifically designated for camping. To maintain aesthetics of the Reserve, to reduce fire hazards and maintain unimpeded access, it is necessary to limit temporary accommodation to the designated camping area or within leased sites as spelt out in *Implementation* below.

The intention of any designated campground is to cater for self-contained motorhomes and caravans, and the campground licence will be based on self-contained vehicles only without a liquid waste dump station available on-site.

## Implementation

Caravans and motor homes may be used on a restricted basis provided they comply with the following conditions:

- a) Only one caravan or motor home is permitted per site;
- b) It must be contained entirely within the leased site;
- c) It must be owned by the lessee or a member of the lessee's immediate family (i.e. parent, sibling, or child);
- d) It must have a current warrant of fitness, current registration, current electrical certificate, and be mobile;
- e) It is to remain on the site only while it is occupied;
- f) It is to remain on the site for not more than 14 consecutive days and not more than 30 days in one year;
- g) Any caravan or motorhome not within an individual leased hut site shall only be located in any area designated as a

campground, comply with self-containment regulations, and display the necessary proof of certification; and

- h) Grey or black wastewater shall be disposed of off-site in an approved dump station. It is not permitted to use the public toilet for disposal. There is no liquid waste dump station available on-site



## 4.12 Business Activities

### Policy

To restrict business activities within the Reserve to that of licensed food vendors.

### Explanation

It is envisaged that any business activity will be restricted to the occasional licensed food vendor's visit. This would only likely be for a couple of hours duration and on spasmodic days.

### Implementation

Licensed food vendors will be able to operate for a short duration within the Reserve. All other business activities will not be permitted within the Reserve.

## 4.13 Catering and Food Sales

### Policy

To allow for catering and food sales to users of South Rangitata Reserve on a temporary basis.

### Explanation

Catering will normally be associated with an event, held in a temporary structure such as a marquee. In these cases, most events will be private functions. Catering will be organised by the hirer of the facility.

### Implementation

An organisation hiring or using part of South Rangitata Reserve for an event, may make arrangements with mobile shop operators to cater for them. These arrangements shall not impinge on the rights or enjoyment of other users of the Reserve. If no invitation has been extended, mobile shops shall not operate within South Rangitata Reserve.

For other times when an organisation is not using a Reserve for an event, mobile shop operators may make an application for permission to operate a mobile shop on that Reserve.

Such sellers or mobile shop operators may be charged for operating within South Rangitata Reserve.

## 4.14 Inappropriate Uses

### Policy

Uses of South Rangitata Reserve which are contrary to the objectives of this Management Plan, will not be permitted.

### Explanation

Some uses of South Rangitata Reserve are inappropriate, and can detract from the visual appearance, health and safety, and other values of the Reserve. Some examples of inappropriate uses are industrial activities, motor sport and excessively noisy activities.

## Implementation

Applications to conduct these activities will be declined. To ensure that any inappropriate uses observed or reported are promptly curtailed.

## 4.15 Access

### Policy

To provide sufficient access for users of South Rangitata Reserve and allow for access to the coast and Rangitata River through the Reserve in appropriate places.

### Explanation

Vehicle and pedestrian access can be obtained from a few points including Rangitata Huts Road, access lanes and the beach.

### Implementation

All accessways will be maintained to provide safe access to the Reserve.

## 4.16 Roadways and Parking

### Policy

To provide for safe and effective roadway systems, and for vehicle parking in suitable locations.

## Explanation

A sealed road runs the length of the reserve terminating in a small parking area at the north end. Access to the individual bach sites is via this road. Parking is permitted on public areas, if ground maintenance and traffic safety is not compromised, the ground conditions are such that turf damage does not occur, and occupiers may access their sites.

### Implementation

Where roadways and parking are provided, surfaces, markings, and signs will be maintained to the required standards. The costs of maintaining the sealed road shall be apportioned 50% to lessees and 50% to ratepayers.

## 4.17 Vehicles

### Policy

All motor vehicles must only use the formed roads, access lanes and parking areas.

### Explanation

Speed restrictions are covered by Council's Consolidated Bylaw. Speed restrictions may apply to all vehicle traffic on this Reserve. Drivers are required to observe these restrictions and all traffic signs. Restricting vehicles (other than service vehicles) to the formed roads, access lanes and parking areas, will minimise noise, and ground damage, and maintain safety.

The road and lanes are solely for access to huts, the river, neighbouring Reserve, coastal or public areas. As such they are not intended for the recreational use of vehicles, i.e. they are not to be used as a racetrack or amusement area.

#### **Implementation**

In cases where non-compliance occurs and/or damage results, prosecution and appropriate reparation will be sought.

### **4.18 Adjoining Properties**

#### **Policy**

To encourage good liaison with adjoining landowners.

#### **Explanation**

To ensure that management of the Reserve is undertaken in a way that minimises any detrimental effect on adjoining land.

#### **Implementation**

To inform adjoining landowners of any significant undertaking which may occur on the Reserve adjacent to their property.

### **4.19 Fencing**

#### **Policy**

To provide for fencing of property boundaries and internal enclosures, as necessary.

#### **Explanation**

Fencing of the Reserve fulfils several purposes. These include containing or excluding stock, defining leased sites, protection of plantings, areas of conservation and recreation, and allowing an admission charge to be made at times.

#### **Implementation**

Fencing will be checked as necessary, and any maintenance carried out.

Fencing of the access lanes will not normally be undertaken except for when grazing of the neighbouring property is occurring.

The co-operation of the adjoining owner will be sought in reporting any damage to boundary fences.

The cost of fencing any leased sites shall be met by the lessees.

### **4.20 Litter**

#### **Policy**

To require all users of South Rangitata Reserve to remove their own litter, or place in any transfer station where provided.

#### **Explanation**

Litter detracts from the appearance and enjoyment of South Rangitata Reserve and may be a hazard.

Household refuse originating from within the Reserve must be placed in the adjacent transfer station if provided or removed from the Reserve.

### Implementation

Household litter and refuse is to be placed in the adjacent transfer station where provided.

The organisers of any events held within the Reserve are required to ensure that all litter is collected and removed during and after these events. Offenders caught littering will be prosecuted.

## 4.21 Information Signs

### Policy

- To identify the Reserve, facilities, and features with permanent signs.
- To allow organisations to locate limited temporary signs within the Reserve, when associated with an event.

### Explanation

There should not be a proliferation of signs, but where the permanent signs are needed to identify the Reserve and control or inform the public, they should be of a standard nature. When an event is being held, it is sometimes necessary to identify the location and duration with temporary signage.

### Implementation

Permanent signs shall contain international pictorial symbols or text, and will be constructed of timber or steel, although other attractive signs of an approved type may be located on buildings, or to identify facilities, features, and entrances.

Temporary signs may be permitted at any location on the day of an event only, providing that any associated or incorporated advertising has a limited impact, particularly when viewed from outside the Reserve.



## 4.22 Fires

### Policy

- a) To prohibit the incidence of open fires in South Rangitata Reserve.
- b) To maintain a firefighting capability by continuing to maintain a water supply and hydrants in operating order.

### Explanation

Fires in the open have the potential to cause damage to the Reserve and the buildings contained within it. Fire may also spread beyond the Reserve and other affect private property and protection works.

### Implementation

Open fires are not permitted in the Reserve.

Gas barbecues may be operated.

## 4.23 Vegetation

### Policy

To plant and maintain suitable vegetation to ameliorate the climate, enhance the aesthetic ecological and conservation values of the reserve.

### Explanation

Trees, shrubs, and herbaceous species are planted as part of an ongoing programme of providing vegetation for shelter, shade,

screening, beautification, and erosion control. This vegetation helps maintain the aesthetic and ecological values of South Rangitata Reserve. Its protection and conservation are important to users, neighbouring residents, and the greater environment. Refer to [Appendix 6](#) for guidelines.

### Implementation

Council, contractors, or community groups may be used for planting enhancement and maintenance programmes. Existing trees will continue to be managed in accordance with accepted arboricultural practice, and will be removed when they become inappropriate, unsafe, or unthrifty. Lessees may only plant within the site that they occupy. Planting of lanes and other public areas will be by arrangement only, where this is appropriate and does not adversely impact access.



## 4.24 Pest Plants and Animals

### Policy

To control pest plants and animals where they occur within South Rangitata Reserve.

### Explanation

The nature of the open spaces within South Rangitata Reserve provides an environment conducive to the occurrence of pest plants and animals.

### Implementation

Pest plants, and animals shall need to be controlled by accepted methods from time to time when trigger points for control are reached. This will avoid their proliferation within South Rangitata Reserve.

## 4.25 Dogs

### Policy

To permit dogs in South Rangitata Reserve to the extent provided for in the Timaru District Consolidated Bylaws.

### Explanation

As required by the Timaru District Consolidated Bylaws, all dogs within the Reserve must be under the continuous and effective control of their owners or handlers, and preferably on a leash. In some circumstances it may be possible to make application to

Council for dispensation from the Bylaw. This would only be considered for dog shows and public exhibitions.

### Implementation

All dogs found roaming uncontrolled in the Reserve will be impounded.

None of the above will apply to any person using a seeing eye dog, or dogs used in conjunction with Police duties or Security Patrols.



## 4.26 Domesticated Animals

### Policy

To prohibit domesticated animals other than dogs from the Reserve, unless prior written permission is obtained.

### Explanation

Domestic animals can have a detrimental impact on the environment. Horses and grazing stock can contribute to soil erosion directly, or by removing vegetative cover. Other animals such as cats are a threat to wildlife, particularly bird and lizard species.

Animals may in some circumstances be permitted to take part in public performances authorised by management.

### Implementation

Any unauthorised animals found within the Reserve will be impounded.

An accessway to the beach is provided for horses between the cattle stop and the beach.

## 4.27 Buildings and Structures (Proposed)

### Policy

All proposed buildings or structures must comply with the provisions of the Timaru District Plan, and the building code may

only be erected in designated areas. Only buildings which are in accordance with the Management Objectives of this Plan, will be considered.

### Explanation

Natural hazards identified within the Reserve mean that restrictions to buildings can occur in some areas.

### Implementation

All proposed buildings or structures require a Building Consent and may require a Resource Consent.

All proposed buildings or structures will only be allowed on their defined designated area on the Reserve.

Any effluent disposal systems must comply with national and regional policies and rules.

## 4.28 Buildings and Structures (Existing)

### Policy

To provide facilities for recreation infrastructural services and to allow for lessees' requirements.

### Explanation

Buildings and structures are necessary to provide utility services and to meet the needs of lessees.



### Implementation

All buildings or structures shall be maintained in a clean, tidy, and functioning state. Any buildings or structures no longer required, or which become derelict shall be removed.

Where modifications are proposed, it is necessary to comply with the provisions of the Regional Plans, District Plan, Building Act, and Council's specified conditions.

## 4.29 Outdoor Furniture and Fixtures

### Policy

To provide outdoor furniture and fixtures to service users.

### Explanation

Seating, litter receptacles and other appropriate fixtures are installed on the Reserve.

### Implementation

Furniture and fixtures will be regularly monitored for maintenance. Their placement will be reviewed to ensure they are meeting the requirements of the users.

Where modifications are proposed, it is necessary to comply with legislative provisions.

## 4.30 Public Toilet

### Policy

To provide and maintain a public toilet suitable for the day-to-day needs of Reserve casual day-users unless other arrangements are made.

### **Explanation**

A public toilet is located within the South Rangitata Reserve and is sufficient to cater for normal casual day-users. The public toilet is provided by Council.

Where many spectators will attend a major event, it may be necessary to supplement the existing toilet with approved portable facilities.

Lessees of fishing huts and self-contained motorhomes and caravans must have their own toilet facilities and are not catered for by the public toilet.

### **Implementation**

To ensure that where facilities are provided to meet the day-to-day casual use and they are well maintained.

The public toilet is not to be used as a de facto dump station for motorhomes and caravans.

## **4.31 Children's Playground**

### **Policy**

To facilitate safe children's play by providing for well maintained playground apparatus.

### **Explanation**

All playground equipment shall comply with the New Zealand standard for playground equipment and safety undersurfacing, to ensure children's safety when using the apparatus.

To ensure prudent financial management and to effective maintenance of equipment only one children's playground will be maintain within the south end of the Reserve.

### **Implementation**

Regular inspections will be undertaken to ensure compliance with the above standards.



change in circumstances or after at least ten years following the adoption of this plan.

#### **Implementation**

Should a policy or objective require major amendment prior to the general review this may be done by public notification. Minor policy amendments will not require public notification.

## **4.32 Plan Review**

### **Policy**

The Plan will be reviewed as necessary when required by a change in circumstances, with a general review not more frequently than 10 yearly intervals.

### **Explanation**

The Management Plan should be reviewed and updated to ensure that policies are appropriate. This review will be triggered by a



## 5 APPENDICES

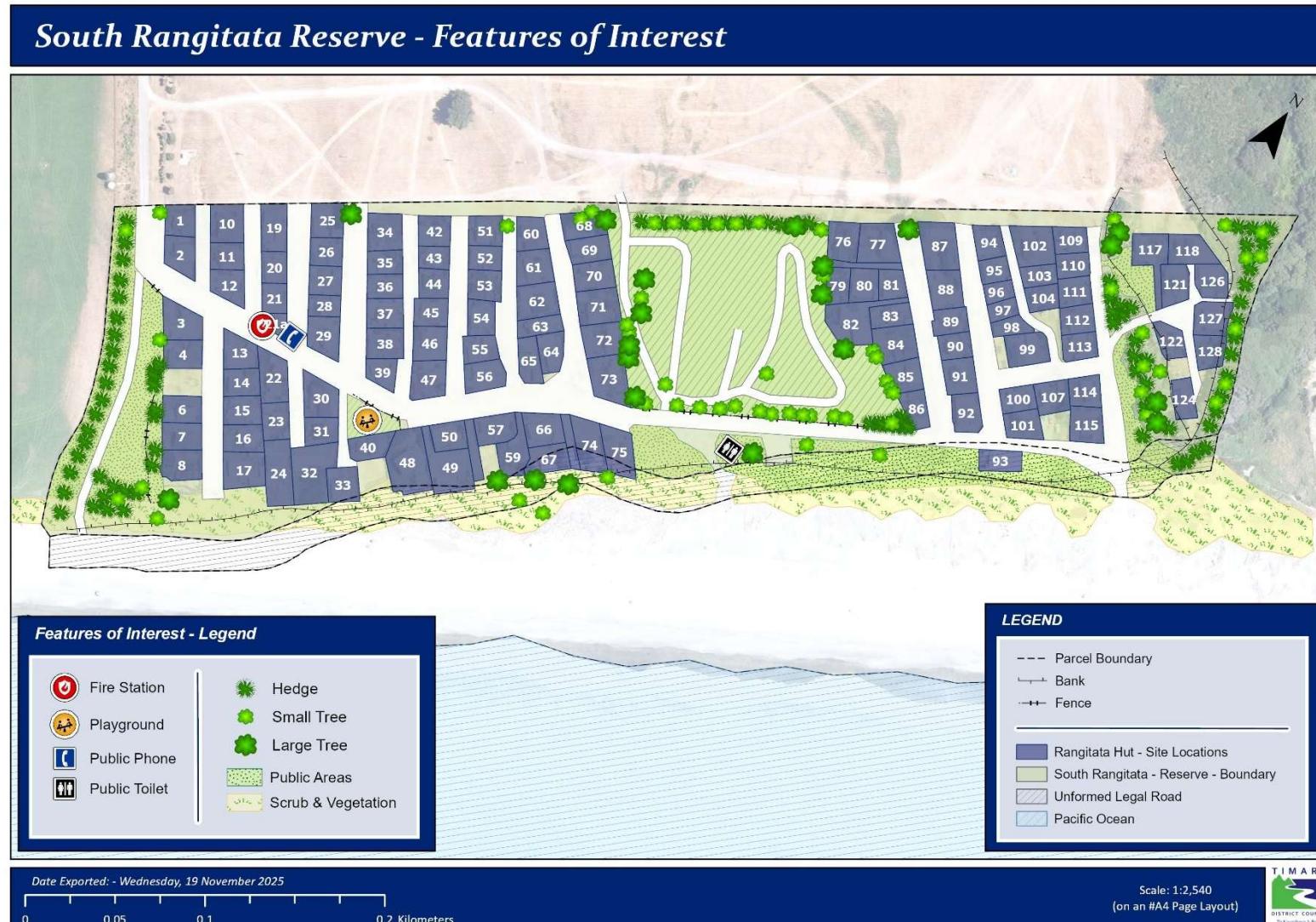
## 5.1 Appendix 1 – South Rangitata Reserve Location Map



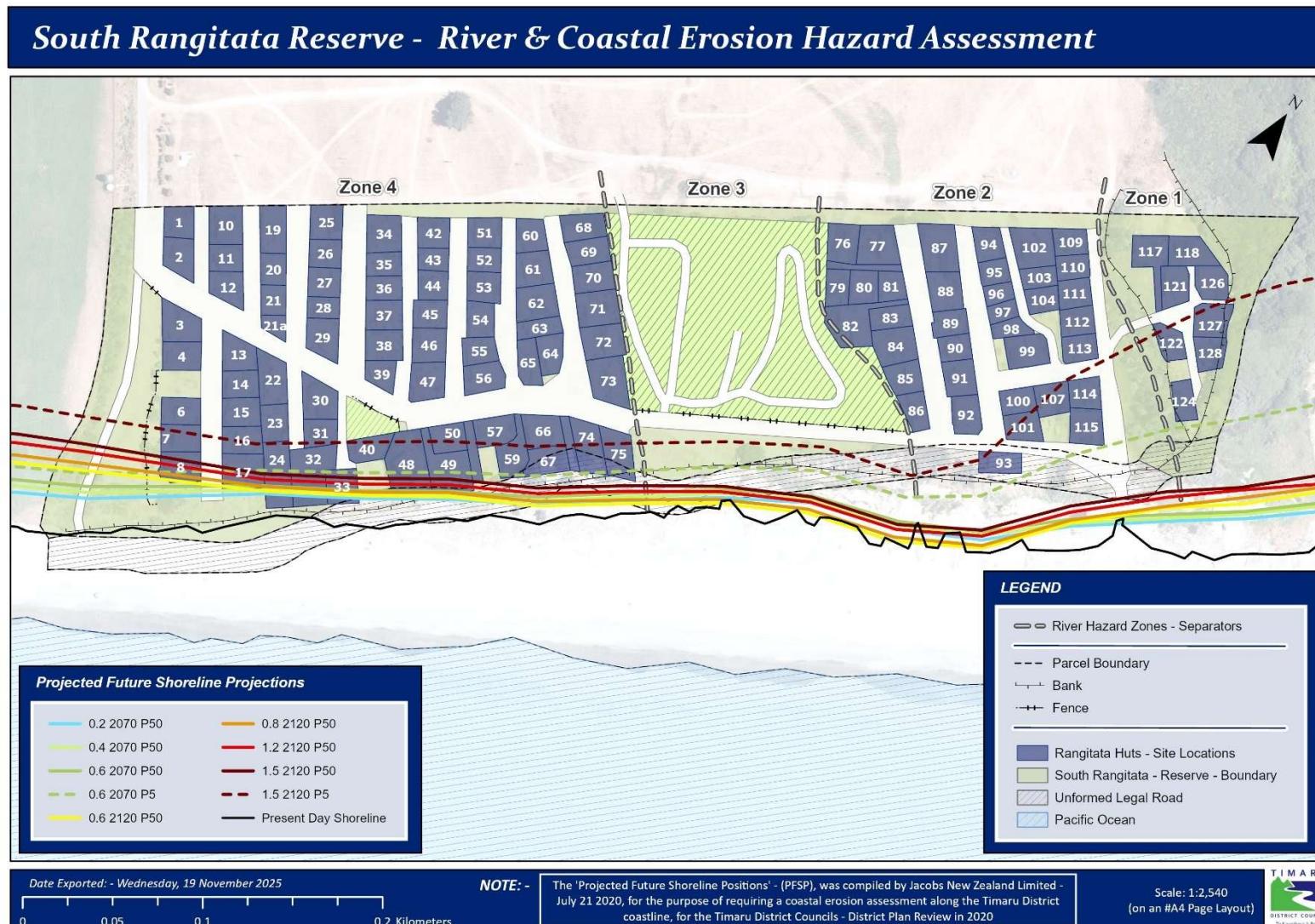
## 5.2 Appendix 2 - Legal Boundaries of South Rangitata Reserve 5266



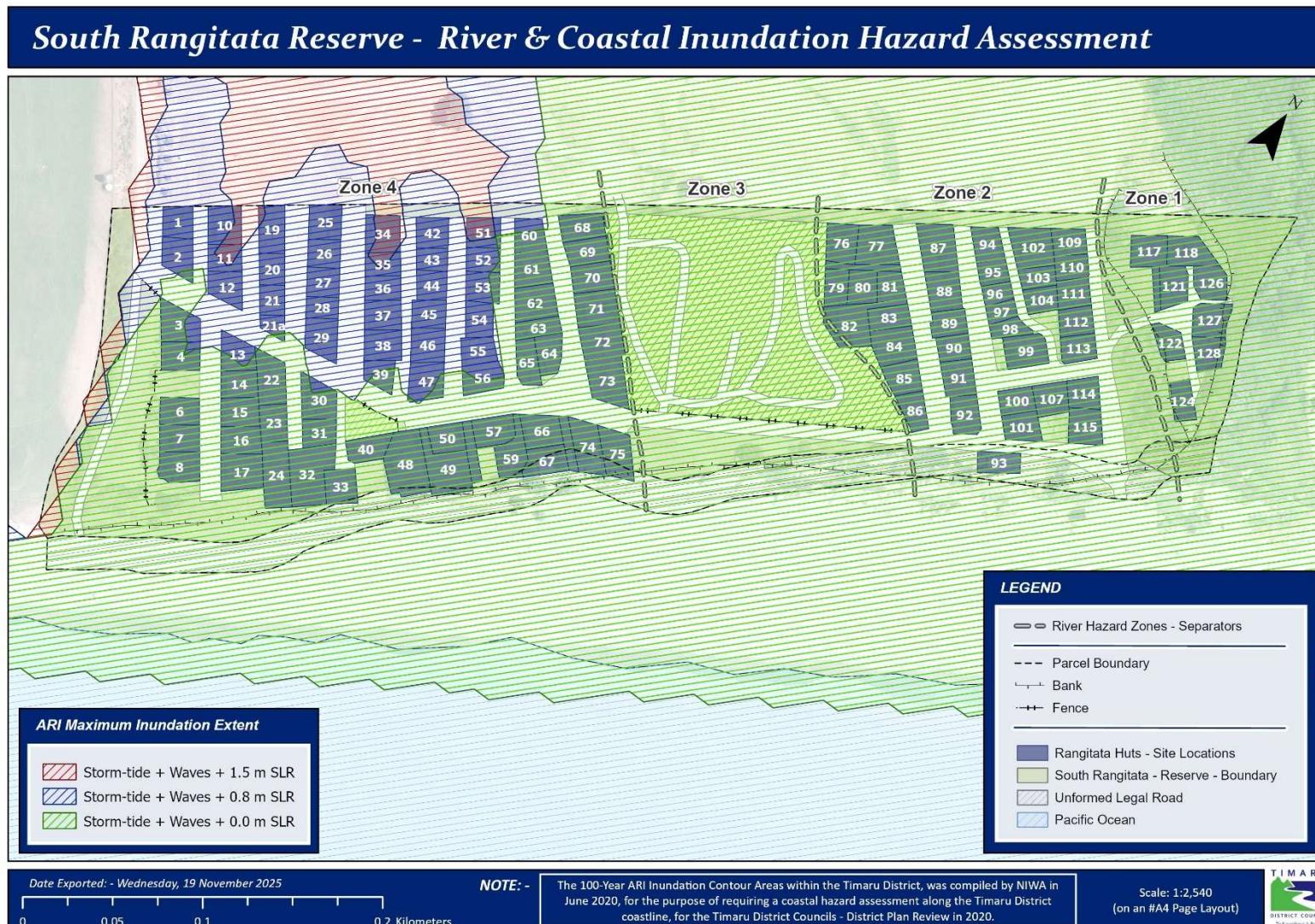
### 5.3 Appendix 3 - Features at South Rangitata Reserve



## 5.4 Appendix 4 – River and Coastal Erosion Hazard Assessment Plan



## 5.5 Appendix 5 – River and Coastal Inundation Hazard Assessment Plan



## 5.6 Appendix 6 - Guidelines for Vegetation Establishment and Removal

### 5.3.1 Planting

The planting of vegetation on the reserve can be divided into two main areas:

1. Shelter, screening and protection plantings which will be undertaken on public areas of the reserve, and which will benefit all reserve users. These plantings will be undertaken on a programmed basis. All such plantings shall be of native species with a proven record of performance in coastal conditions.
2. Screening and beautification plantings undertaken by individual hut holders within the confines of their own hut boundaries. These plantings can be undertaken at any time but must conform to the following criteria:
  - a) All plantings must be eco-sourced local native species ([Department of Conservation \(DoC\)](#)). This ensures that the plants are adapted to the local growing conditions.
  - b) Only shrubs or small trees not exceeding four metres in height may be planted.
  - c) Plantings shall be confined to within the hut holder's property boundary only, and shall have consideration

for shading, disruption of services, e.g. septic tanks, and the general enjoyment of adjoining hut holders.

- d) Private individuals may not plant anything on general reserve areas outside of the hut holder's boundary without prior permission.

### 5.3.2 Removal

The removal or destruction of any tree, shrub, or other plantings (excluding pest plants) on public areas of the reserve is prohibited at all times.

If questions of safety arise these concerns should be addressed to the management who may grant permission for removal or arrange removal where this is prudent, and pruning will be insufficient.

### 5.3.3 Coastal Native Species

Successful establishing trees and shrubs in coastal situations can be difficult. These sites have shallow sandy or stony soils which are saline (salty), are subject to continued exposure to persistent winds which are often laden with salt spray, and here in South Canterbury at least are usually found in lower rainfall areas which means they are more often dry than wet.

Careful selection of species and good planting techniques are needed to ensure establishment of plantings.



Plant species that are adapted to the local environment have a greater establishment success rate and support the natural ecology and habitats.

These plants can be assisted to establish more quickly by:

- Watering at regular periods during establishment and planting during Spring and Autumn when most rainfall and growth occurs.
- Preventing grazing of plants by sheep, rabbits, or hares by fencing or the use tree guards and repellents.