

## **Submission to Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Draft Reserves Management Plan**

27 August 2025

Tēnā koutou

### **Introduction**

1. Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa, the Outdoor Access Commission, is the Crown agent responsible for providing leadership on outdoor access issues. Our role is to advise on and advocate for free, certain, enduring, and practical access to the outdoors.
2. The Commission plays a key role through its statutory leadership in negotiating, establishing and improving outdoor access for New Zealanders. This includes making people and organisations aware of where existing public access exists and ensuring that access endures over time.

### **Overview**

3. We acknowledge the policy and requirement under the Reserves Act stated in the Draft Reserves Management Plan to ensure: "Freedom of public entry and access subject to controls for the protection of the wellbeing of the reserve and those using it [s.17(2)(a) and s.18(2)(b)]".
4. We acknowledge the intention in the management plan to work collaboratively (s2.2.4 (iii)) "with hapū and/or iwi, local regulatory agencies, organisations and interested parties with respect to areas of mutual interest" and to encourage public access (s2.2.5). We trust that the Commission will be included as an interested party as early as possible whenever public access is at stake or where the Commission may be able to assist with opportunities to improve public access.
5. Herenga ā Nuku has public access maps on our website that are freely available to the public. Some of the public access routes shown in the reserve management plan maps are not shown on our website maps. We are happy to make this public access visible in our tracks and trails layer if Heritage NZ would like to provide us with a shapefile/GPS file for the access.

### **Specific reserves**

6. We offer the following minor suggestions that may improve the Draft Reserves Management Plan and enhance, clarify or further explain public access to specific reserves.
  - a. Edmunds' Ruins Historic Reserve: Map notes "Access track is shown with a dashed red line". The following could be added: "... over Accessway vested in Far North District Council."

- b. Matanaka Farm Buildings: Map notes "Two metre wide access easement shown with an orange line (from SO 19660, Otago Land District)." The easement connects the two historic reserves at the site, however public access *to* the site is not shown. We understand that there is a right of way in favour of HM the Queen and, while it does not explicitly mention public access, it is used for public access and we could assume that was the intention of the right of way. Therefore, we suggest the map in the reserve management plan can be enhanced by showing and adding: "Access (from DP 420323, Otago Land District) extends along a track to the west of the reserve and connects the site to legal road."
- c. Te Pōrere Pa Historic Reserve: We assume but have not been able to confirm that there is public access over the roadway that provides for access and parking to this reserve. It may be helpful to add notes and show it on the map to that effect: "Access road from SH 47 and car park is shown with [e.g. orange line]."
- d. Craigmores Rock Shelter Historic Reserve: Access is described from Moa Road but appears to be over private land. It may be useful to confirm the source of public access, e.g. QEII covenant, or the generosity of the landowner.
- e. Te Mananui Rock Art Site Private Historic Reserve: Access is described as available from Frenchman's Gully Road but appears to be over private property. Again, it may be useful to confirm the source of public access, e.g. kindly allowed by landowner.

We hope the comments are helpful. If you require more details or would like to discuss any of the above points further, my contact details are [inger.perkins@herengaanuku.govt.nz](mailto:inger.perkins@herengaanuku.govt.nz) and +64 27 370 1876.



Inger Perkins

Regional Field Advisor, West Coast  
Kaitohutohu ā-Rohe, Te Tai o Poutini