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submitter 18,  
OS6/10P(a)

## Oral Presentation to the Strategy and Policy Committee Draft Reserve Classification Plan

Thank you for allowing the opportunity to address you.

Although I consider myself very much a “friend” of Council I do feel that you have got the proposed reserve classification wrong in respect of the Red Rocks area.

While not intending disrespect I personally found the discussion document a little one sided and in some cases a lack of intimate knowledge/understanding of the area was evident.

Prior to the release of your current paper I had submitted a proposal to Council calling for the establishment of a Historic Reserve encompassing both Red Rocks and Sinclair Head. That paper had the support of Ngati Toa, Wellington Tenth, and the New Zealand Archaeological Association.

Photo one- Sinclair Head

Looking at the precise wording of the discussion document, I make the following comment;

### **Pariwhero/ Red Rocks**

Current wording;

*“Reclassify the remainder of the site as **Scenic B Reserve** due to the significant visual features of this site, and to protect the site’s historic, archaeological and geological properties”.*

While the document identifies Pariwhero/Red Rocks as an important geographical feature much of this lies within the Department of Conservation reserve. No other elements that constitute the “significant visual features” are identified thus limiting the depth of any submissions.

The section also lacks balance in so far as the text fails to inform readers that other reserve options would also protect the site’s historic, archaeological and geological properties. Likewise the comment *“The recommended classification would also protect*

*current recreation activities because it allows public access, subject to the conditions and restrictions necessary for the protection of the reserve*” is also silent on protection under other designations. The descriptive fails to explain the weaknesses, if any, of the current reserve designation.

With regard to the section covering Maori and European history, I note that it strangely omits reference to many of the sites recognized by the New Zealand Archaeological Association yet some of those very features are used to prop up the argument for the preferred designation of the adjoining Sinclair Head Reserve.

As a side issue I often wonder why 7 years after the actions of the Historic Places Trust to create a “Historic Area” around the baches there is still no reference within the Heritage Section of the District Plan.

One section that justifies ridicule reads “*The area is zoned under the District Plan site 3A, a site for a number of regionally endangered and nationally rare species. The adjacent Department of Conservation scientific reserve is listed as a site of national significance for indigenous vegetation/fauna.*” While it is not my role to apportion blame this is a porky if I have ever seen one. I will table the 1971 submission to the Minister of Lands seeking approval to establish the Scientific Reserve. As you will see the justification was linked to the geological value and had nothing to do with the significance of indigenous vegetation/fauna as the text would have you believe.

The statement “Several of the *baches were used as storage facilities for the nearby observation post ...*” comes as a surprise. Bach owner records/knowledge suggests only one bach in the Red Rocks area was used for this purpose. Perhaps “officials” could make available their supporting material.

### **Sinclair Head/Te Rimurapa**

Here it is proposed to reclassify the current Recreation Reserve to a Historic Reserve in order **to reflect the cultural significance** of the site. It is interesting such wording (cultural significance) was not used for Pariwhero, where the cliff has a similar District Plan ranking to the primary Sinclair Head features.

One paragraph of the report reads;

*“The site has outstanding cultural significance and contains Taumata- patiti a Ngati Mamoe Pa (M43 in the District Plan) and evidence of a Waipango Fishing station. Archaeological works in the 1960s found evidence of Karaka groves, terraces, middens and ovens”.*

In respect to the Waipango Fishing station I requested supporting documentation from Council officials. In response I was provided with several pages from the publication “**Maori sites of Te Whanganui a Tara**”. It would appear [from the papers] that Rimurapa was one of three reserves occupied around 1832. However in saying as much

there was no proof as such in the documents supplied that the Fishing Station was actually within what is now known as the Sinclair Head Recreation Reserve. The 1843 survey plans identified in the papers did however show the location of “Maori huts” within the adjoining Red Rocks Reserve to the east and a further collection of huts to the west on what is now Long Gully Station.

The 1960’s archaeological works that found evidence of karaka groves, terraces and a midden are all located within the Red Rocks Recreation Reserve. It is possible that these errors have either been through lack of intimate knowledge or a willingness to enhance a predetermined outcome.

Published material needs to be accurate as errors have the potential to both cast doubt and create unease. It is worth noting that statements appearing on Councils web site on 1 December were also inaccurate, here it was said “*The proposed reserves are locations most would already regard as reserve or wilderness but can’t be protected as effectively because they lack official reserve classification*”. Despite being told of the inaccuracies either on the day or soon after, the same statements were still being made in a public forum (Dominion/Post) 7 weeks later.

Photo two- aerial showing “features of merit” plus legal boundaries.

With this shot we can see that a good number of “features” have been excluded from the proposed Sinclair Head **Historic Reserve**.

They are;

- |    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
| 1  | Karaka grove (M44)  | District Plan ranking of “Important”       |
| 2  | Midden  | NZAA site R27 100                          |
| 3  | Pit/Terrace   | NZAA site R27 102                          |
| 4  | Pit/Terrace   | NZAA site R27 103                          |
| 5  | Off shore rocks associated stories with tangata whenua –  | District Plan ranking of “High” (M42)      |
| 6  | Kelp beds   | Strong links to Ngai Tara                  |
| 7  | Second karaka grove   | NZAA site R27 118                          |
| 8  | Site of Maori huts  | From 1843 SO plans                         |
| 9  | Pariwhero Cliff (M45)   | District Plan ranking of “Important”       |
| 10 | Although covered by separate action the baches are recognized by their own proposed independent Historic Reserve designation. |  |
| 11 | Water Header tank   | era c1914 possibly linked to stone cutting |
| 12 | Weir linked to WW11 Observation Post  |  |
| 13 | Stone wall.   |  |
| 14 | Components of the Observation Post  |  |

In conclusion I believe I have demonstrated sufficient errors/omissions in the Draft Reserve Classification Plan to give you confidence to set aside those recommendations as they apply to the Red Rocks/Sinclair Head area.

I urge you to accept the submission calling for a larger historic reserve knowing that there is support from both Iwi and the New Zealand Archaeological Association.

Finally you may be interested to learn that I have filed a nomination with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust requesting that they consider "Historic Area" status for the wider area.

Thank you.

Barry Insull

Sacha Gilbert  
Submission 38  
059/10P(d)

**BEFORE THE WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL**

**IN THE MATTER OF** the Reserves Act 1977

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER OF** Draft Reserves Classification Plan for the South Coast, Outer Green Belt and Some City Sites to the Wellington City Reserves Management Plan.

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**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF SACHA GILBERT ON BEHALF OF THE NEW ZEALAND HISTORIC PLACES TRUST POUHERE TAONGA (NZHPT)**

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**18 March 2010**

## **Introduction**

1. My name is Sacha Gilbert. I am a Heritage Advisor – Planner for the New Zealand Historic Places Trust *Pouhere Taonga* (NZHPT) on whose behalf I am giving evidence. I hold a post graduate degree in Marine studies from Waikato University and a Bachelor of Resource Management from the Lincoln University and am an associate member of the New Zealand Planning institute. I have worked for Auckland City Council as a planner for the past 6 years and have worked for the New Zealand Historic Places Trust for the past 10 months.
2. In my work for the NZHPT I deal with heritage planning issues, promoting the sustainable management of historic heritage resources in the Central Region of New Zealand (extending from Taranaki to Hawkes Bay and south to Nelson and Marlborough). This involves providing heritage planning advice to 30 local and regional councils, preparing submissions on policy/plan changes and resource consent applications, on behalf of the NZHPT.

## **Purpose of evidence**

3. This is a submission on the draft Reserves Classification Plan of the Wellington City Council. The New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT) submission relates to historic heritage matters of the proposed draft Reserves Classification Plan.

## **Position**

4. **The NZHPT supports the Draft Reserves Classification plan, with amendments;**
5. The NZHPT supports the Wellington City Council intention to classify the reserves in Wellington under the Reserves Act, to strengthen the protection of these areas and as a way to more appropriately plan for their management. The reserves contain significant historic heritage. NZHPT has particular interest in;
  - Hue Te Taka Peninsula – Moa Point,
  - Princess Bay - Te Raekaihau Point Rock Platform and View Road South Headland Reserve;
  - Island Bay - Buckley Road, Orchy Crescent West, Melbourne Road Reserve, Shorland Park Foreshore and Oku Street Reserve;
  - Pariwhero/ Red Rocks, Sinclair Head/ Te Rimurapa and the Historic Baches;

- Owhiro Bay – former quarry,
- Old Coach Road Reserve, and;
- St Gerard’s Monastery

These reserves all contain remnants of ancestral and historic landscapes, having intrinsic cultural and physical values, items and places that tell a storey of our shared history. These Reserves make an important contribution to the historic record of Wellington and should be protected for their historic heritage values for future generations. The landscapes the reserves encompass have multiple layers of importance including historic heritage, ecological, recreational and scenic values to name a few. When deciding a classification for a reserve consideration must be given to these competing values.

6. However given the short time slot I have been given to present to you, I would like to concentrate on NZHPT biggest concern of the reclassification proposal – that of Red Rocks, Owhiro Bay, Sinclair Head and the Historic Baches.
7. The history of the area between Sinclair head and the Owhiro Bay – former quarry – has so many different layers to consider. From the archaeological record of Maori cultivations, Pa sites, Karaka groves and midden that can still be seen in the landforms, to the early cutting and quarrying industry of the red rock of which industrial remnants still remain, the stock yards and farm tracks attesting to the reserves historic farming use, the historic baches, the World War II observation post at Sinclair Head and the numerous ship wrecks along this stretch of coast, the landscape is imbued with its rich history. This is one of Wellington’s most important cultural landscapes and as such the NZHPT is considering a review of our registration of the Red Rocks Historic Area to capture more of this cultural landscape in its entirety. Revisiting the registration is in its early days yet and a lengthy process needs to be undertaken before a revised registration would be ready for public consultation, however it is an indication of how important we consider this area to be to Wellington and New Zealand’s history.
8. The former Owhiro Bay Quarry, Historic baches and the Sinclair Heads/ Te Rimurapa Reserves are proposed to be classified as historic reserves, while the remainder of area of interest is proposed to be classified as a Scenic B Reserve.
9. The NZHPT supports the allocation of the Historic Reserve status to the Historic Baches and Sinclair Head/ Te Rimurapa, however is unsure of allocating Historic

Reserve status to the former quarry at Owhiro bay and does not agree with the Scenic B Reserve status for Pariwhero/ Red Rocks.

10. Although the Draft Plan splits all these areas up into separate parcels of land - compartmentalising the landscape, the NZHPT takes a more holistic view of the area and prefers to consider it as one landscape. As Dame Anne Salmond said in her 2003 address to the Heritage Landscapes think tank “There is no radical division between nature and culture, Maori and European history, colonial or post colonial periods – just one long intertwined narrative, woven from different strands of land and ancestry in different parts of the country. Layered on the land in a stratigraphy of stories”. No where in Wellington is this better captured than in the landscape of this southern coast reserve.
11. Council has not provided any clear reasoning in the Reserves Classification Draft Plan as to why one feature of a reserve has been valued over another. As such, the NZHPT is confused by the allocation of classifications to the respected reserves. For example, that the presence of the World War II observation post on Sinclair Head is a fairly obvious basis for the allocation of Historic Reserve status. However there doesn't seem to be any clear reasoning behind why the former Owhiro bay Quarry is also classified as a Historic Reserve, while the historic Red Rocks area has been excluded from this classification and is classified as a Scenic B Reserve.
12. From a historic heritage perspective the quarrying operation at the Red Rocks and the Red Rocks themselves are far more deserving of protection as a Historic Reserve than the Owhiro Bay Quarry. The remaining Red Rocks still show signs of where they have been rough cut and quarried, while remnants of the operation – water runs, tanks, trenching and quarried rocks can still be seen in the surrounding landscape. Whereas the Owhiro Bay Quarry operation has largely been dismantled, with the access road realigned, the machinery removed and the entire area landscaped and earth worked to make it more useable and attractive to recreational users of the reserve. The only visible sign that the site was every a quarry is the scars left on the landscape. Surely the classifications for these two sites should be the other way around making Red Rocks a historic reserve and Owhiro bay Quarry as a Scenic B reserve?
13. As expressed in our submission NZHPT is of the opinion that the best out come for the area would be an overall classification as a Historic reserve rather than the hodgepodge, disjointed mosaic of reserve classifications that is currently

proposed. NZHPT is concerned that those parts of the reserve proposed to be classified as a Scenic B Reserve risk losses to heritage value, as those values are considered secondary to the reserves main purpose.

14. The management of Historic Reserves is by necessity very different to the management of Recreational, Community Purposes or Scenic Reserves. A recent example that provides excellent guidelines to the protection and management of Historic Reserves is the Tauranga City Councils Historic Reserves Management Plan. The Tauranga plan requires a Conservation Plan to be completed to provide operational guidance to maintenance and conservation work in the Reserves. In addition, all physical disturbances to the land are avoided however, where absolutely required, works are limited to works and associated maintenance in accordance with the reserves Concept Plan and Conservation Plan. All significant excavations and subsurface works require archaeological assessment and monitoring. While these measures might be entirely appropriate in a Historic Reserve, they may be overlooked or discounted if they conflict with the main purpose of other types of reserves, such as the retention or replanting of trees in scenic reserves.
15. While the NZHPT accepts that the landscape in this area also has high value both for recreation and scenery, it stands apart from other similarly outstanding landscapes for the exceptional concentration of historic sites. The NZHPT is concerned that by allowing the reserve to be classified as a mixture of historic and Scenic B, important historic heritage will be lost. In a scenic reserve it is desirable to re- establish native bush to increase the amenity, birdlife and enjoyment of the area by visitors. It is stated in the Draft Plan that the purpose of a scenic reserve is that by the introduction of flora into the area of land so it will become of significant scenic interest or beauty. However trees can destroy archaeology and in order to protect a site weed eradication and some management to keep the sites clear of tree and large plants is desirable to ensure the delicate archaeology is not damaged. A site visit undertaken recently showed that the significant regeneration of native bush was beginning to occur on and around identified archaeological sites, if allowed to continue this regeneration of native trees could lead to the damage of those archaeological sites by tree roots. This is an example of the types of conflicts that can arise between competing priorities in the management of reserves.
16. The current reserve boundaries separate important features of those items associated with the Sinclair Head Historic Reserve and the Historic Baches Historic Reserve into part of the Scenic B Reserve. In particular it is unclear whether the Historic

Reserve at Sinclair Head includes all the remaining remnants of former buildings. The reserve is geographically very small and does not include the access road or the cableway line to the beach or remanent of the winch system on the beachfront. The NZHPT is of the opinion that both these features are important and should be included in the historic reserve. The boundaries of each reserve should be contiguous with the classification to streamline management purpose and implementation.

17. The current reserve boundaries surrounding the historic baches does not take into account the baches association with their freshwater supplies from the small stream flowing from a spring above the baches and the weir that is still in operation. Both are integral parts of the historic understanding of the baches and their continued liveability. It is of concern that they are separated off into a Scenic Reserve B and not clearly associated with the baches.
18. The significant Maori history in the bay is entirely contained within the Scenic B Reserve. The red rocks have huge importance to local Maori and are associated with the early explorer Kupe. In Maori tradition the red colour of the rocks is from Kupe's sisters who lamenting his departure on a fishing trip cut themselves on the rocks, their blood forever staining the rocks red. In addition, the kelp beds along this coast line were important for food collection and there are significant archaeological deposits along the coast and reaching back into the hills including midden, ovens, cultivation sits and kumera pits. Some accounts site the presence of Pa in these hills, although this has not yet been verified. The Maori heritage features are at particular risk from the scenic B classification as much of this heritage type is contained within the sensitive archaeological record.

### **Relief Sought**

19. Given the many interlinked layers of history in this bay NZHPT believes that the area marked D2 on the map on pg 16 of the Draft Management Plan - Pariwhero/ Red Rocks should be included in one single historic reserve covering Sinclair Head to the old quarry building at the entrance to the Reserves. This would simplify the management of the area as it would all be classified under one Historic Reserve and give bach owners and other interested parties surety as to what exactly is going to be managed and how. It would also give this area the recognition it deserves as an outstanding cultural heritage landscape, offering Council and DOC an opportunity to further highlight the historic features contained therein.

## **Conclusion**

20. It is clear to the NZHPT that the over riding value of the Red Rocks, Owhiro Bay and Sinclair Heads Reserve area is historic heritage. For Council to formerly recognise these values by classifying the reserves a Historic Reserve in it's entirely, as an important cultural landscape will ensure that the historic heritage contained within will be managed appropriately. By classifying it as a Historic Reserve the reserve will still be able to provide for its use for recreation and scenic enjoyment without compromising the sensitive historic heritage values. To this end NZHPT would recommend that Council review its management plan for the reserve and consider the development of a conservation plan to provide operational guidance to maintenance and conservation work in the Reserve.

I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

