

Memorandum

24 April 2019

To: Emma Golightly – Parks and Recreation Team Leader – Community & Social Policy

CC: Nina Siers – Relationship Manager Howick and Franklin Local Boards
Carol Stewart, Senior Policy Advisor, Local Board Services

From: David Collings, Chair – Howick Local Board

Subject: Howick Local Board feedback on the Auckland Council submission on the Department of Conservation proposal to revoke certain delegations to territorial authorities under the Reserves Act 1977

Purpose

1. To provide local feedback on the draft Auckland Council submission on the Department of Conservation proposal to revoke certain delegations to territorial authorities under the Reserves Act 1977 (the submission) to be appended to the final Auckland Council submission.

Summary

- *The Department of Conservation wrote to all territorial authorities on 14 March 2019 seeking feedback on a proposal to revoke most Ministerial powers currently delegated to councils under the Reserves Act 1977 (the proposal).*
- *The Howick Local Board endorses the council submission to the Department of Conservation in the matter of the proposal on the revocation of certain delegations to territorial authorities under the Reserves Act 1977 (the proposal).*
- *If the proposal were to proceed, it would mean most decisions regarding local reserves will require Minister of Conservation's approval, in addition to the relevant decision made by the local board. These delegated "supervisory" Ministerial decisions currently sit with the Governing Body and have been sub-delegated to staff.*
- *The Howick Local Board does not support the Department of Conservation's proposal to revoke certain delegations to territorial authorities under the Reserves Act 1977 for reasons outlined within Auckland Council's submission.*

Context/Background

2. The Department of Conservation wrote to all territorial authorities on 14 March 2019 seeking feedback on a proposal to revoke most Ministerial powers currently delegated to councils under the Reserves Act 1977. Territorial authorities have exercised these powers since 2013. The letter and associated table outlining the proposed changes are attached to this memo as (Attachment B).

3. If the proposal were to proceed, it would mean most decisions regarding local reserves will require Minister of Conservation's approval, in addition to the relevant decision made by the local board. These delegated "supervisory" Ministerial decisions currently sit with the Governing Body and have been sub-delegated to staff.
4. There are likely to be time delays on decisions as well as costs associated. It is assumed that there would also be a considerable increase in staffing resources required to process decisions for local parks under the Reserves Act 1977 throughout New Zealand.

Feedback

5. Howick Local Board members have reviewed the draft submission and have formally resolved the following feedback through the urgent decision process.

That the Howick Local Board:

- a) **endorse the proposed Auckland Council submission (Attachment A) to the Department of Conservation on the proposed revocation of certain delegations to Territorial Authorities under the Reserves Act 1977.**
 - b) **note that the proposed Auckland Council submission will be recommended to the Environment and Community Committee for their approval on 14 May 2019 and subject to any amendments recommended by the committee sent to the Department of Conservation by the due date of 17 May 2019.**
6. The urgent decision to resolve Howick Local Board feedback will be reported to the full local board during the next scheduled meeting on Monday 20 May, 2019.

Next Steps/Implementation

7. As outlined in the above resolution, the Howick Local Board requests that this feedback is taken into consideration in the preparation of the final Auckland Council submission to the Department of Conservation.