

6.26 PG Nops Scenic Reserve

6.26.1 Description

Location:	The reserve is located at the southern edge of Inglewood at the intersection of Tawa Street and Matai Street (SH3)
Legal description:	Five land parcels Lot 1, 2, 3 and 5 DP 8128 – scenic reserve Lot 3 DP 15558 – local purpose (esplanade) reserve
Size:	1.7 hectares
Reserve status:	Subject to Reserves Act 1977
Reserve classification:	Mix of scenic and local purpose (esplanade) reserves
Land ownership:	Lots 1, 2, 3 and 5 DP 8128 are Crown owned with Council appointed to control and manage, Lot 3 DP 15558 is Council owned land

Overview/ Development Concept



Physical description

The reserve is located at the southern entrance to Inglewood, at the intersection of Tawa and Matai streets (SH3). The Kurapete Stream passes through the reserve, and on either side of the entrance are two lots containing rented houses that are part of the scenic reserve but set apart from public access.

There are two bridges over the stream in the reserve as well as a set of steps.

Area contains good examples of a tawa forest with some kamahi and pukatea⁴⁴. The entrance to the reserve from Matai Street contains planted exotics and large patches of *tradescantia fluminensis*.

Tangata whenua

Historic and cultural interests in this area are with Pukerangiora and Puketapu hapū.

PG Nops Scenic Reserve has been identified in the Te Ātiawa Deed of Settlement for Historical Claims for an exclusive first right of refusal. The process for initiating exclusive first right of refusal is included in the Te Ātiawa Claims Settlement Act 2016.

Historical overview

Land acquisition

Mr Percy George Nops died in 1954 without a will and the Public Trust was appointed by the Court as the administrator of his estate. His property transferred to the Public Trustee on 26 May 1955.

PG Nops property involves the five lots included in DP 8128, which comprises an area of 1.83 hectares. All of this land excepting Lot 4 which is in private ownership, has been classified as scenic reserve; however the process by which the land was transferred is more complicated.

The largest parcel Lot 5 was vested in the Crown on subdivision under the Counties Act 1946 in 1957 and is the initial reserve area. Lot 2 was vested in the Inglewood Borough Council in 1957 who then gifted the land to the Crown in 1963 to be added to PG Nops Scenic Reserve. Lots 1 and 3 DP 8128 were gifted to the Crown in 1963 from the public trustee as administrator of the Estate of PG Nops.

The beneficiary of the estate was his sole surviving brother Walter Nops of Auckland. As the sole beneficiary Walter Nops subsequently gifted through the Public Trustee Lots 1 and 3 DP 8128 including the two houses thereon to the Inglewood County and Borough Council as an addition to the PG Nops Scenic Reserve for the benefit of the Inglewood District.

For procedural reasons, as was the practice for reservation of land to be held for scenic reserves, the land for that purpose was transferred into Crown ownership in whom the existing PG Nops Scenic Reserve is so vested⁴⁵.

Lot 3 DP 15558 is a reserve contribution vested in Council on subdivision in 1986. This is a small area of 73m² on the northern side of the Kurapete Stream.

Gazetting

Lot 5 DP 8128 was recorded as being vested in the Crown by gazette notice 14 November 1957, page 2161. Lots 1 and 3 DP 8128 were recorded as being part of PG Nops Scenic Reserve by gazette notice 9 May 1963, page 635. Lot 2 DP 8128 was recorded as being part of PG Nops Scenic Reserve by gazette notice 22 August 1963, page 1215.

⁴⁴ Scenic Reserves of West Taranaki – B. Clarkson & M. Boase, Department of Conservation, c.1982

⁴⁵ Murray Greig's property rationalisation report – ECM 6321678

The gazette notice 9 May 1963 declared that the land be administered by Inglewood District Reserves Board. A gazette notice 23 April 1981 (page 1125) appointed the Inglewood Borough Council to control and manage the reserve. Following the local government reorganisation of 1989, the control and management of the reserve was transferred to the New Plymouth District Council. A gazette notice 26 November 1981, page 3575 classified Lots 1, 2, 3 and 5 DP 8128 as reserve for scenic purposes.

Proposal to remove buildings

The Council has considered removal of the building at PG Nops on a couple of occasions. At a meeting on 18 May 1992 the discussion was whether to sell the two lots (Lot 1 and 3 DP 8128) containing the houses. But in consideration of objections received following a public notice, it was decided to hold a hearing on the issue. At a second council meeting on the matter (29 June 1992) it was decided to retain the land and remove the houses; retaining the land for the benefit of the community.

Following the 1992 decision a Council meeting on 10 April 1995 requested officers to report on progress of the resolution to remove the buildings. At the following meeting of 22 May 1995, in receipt of a report from the Recreation Assets Manager (on the future of the two houses located on the PG Nops Reserve) the Council resolved to continue tenancies on both houses until such time as they require significant financial resources spent on them. At that occurrence, it will be reported back on what is required and the options available, together with a valuation on a removal basis for the two houses concerned.

Ten years later at a Council meeting on 19 May 2015, the two houses were presented through a property rationalisation assessment as non-core aging building assets, with the recommendation to remove the two dwellings and out buildings situated on the PG Nops Scenic Reserve. The Council requested a supplementary report outlining a five year management plan for these buildings and an investigation to the potential heritage value of the houses. At the next meeting of 20 June 2015 and having considered the five submissions on the matter included in a report, it was resolved that projects regarding future activities at PG Nops Reserve be investigated as part of future strategic planning work.

6.26.2 Policies and management objectives

Subject to the general policies as set out in Section 4 of this plan, the policies and management objective for this reserve are:

- a) The forest remnant located at the reserve has ecological and amenity value and control of plant and animal pest is to be maintained as per TRC strategies.
- b) Note the scenic reserves classification places a heightened emphasis on the protection of the naturalness of this piece of land.
- c) The Council is open to any groups who through arrangement with the Council, are interested in undertaking a vegetative control programme at the reserve.
- d) The entrance to the reserve is to be improved to increase its identity as a public reserve and its accessibility, along with amenity considerations.
- e) The existence of two building on the reserve, notably 1 Tawa Street and 1616 Mountain Road SH3. The plan anticipates the continuance of these buildings on the reserve in the short term and that the management of these houses may involve tenancy. The houses do not fulfil a purpose in terms of the reserves open space function and there would be advantages for accessibility to the reserve if the houses were removed
- f) There has been grazing in part of Lot 5 DP 8128 (behind 1622 and 1624 Mountain Road/SH3) which is likely to be a legacy prior to the gifting of the reserve to the Crown. This plan anticipates the continuance of grazing in this area of the reserve.
- g) Walkways in the reserves are to be maintained as bush tracks (Class 4).
- h) The Crown owned part of this reserve (Lot 1, 2, 3 and 5 DP 81280 has a right of first refusal in the Te Ātiawa Deed of Settlement which is legislated through the Te Ātiawa Claims Settlement Act 2016. The right exits for 172 years from settlement date – 2016.