

Key messages for Waipu Cove Recreation Reserve Board regarding Annual Site Holders (ASH)

Background

Reserve Boards are required to comply with Section 44 (2) of the Reserves Act 1977 (Administered by the Department of Conservation)

Except with the consent of the Minister, the owner of any vehicle, caravan, tent, or removable structure shall not permit it to remain on a reserve for a total period of more than 4 weeks during the period commencing on 1 November in any year and ending with 31 March.

The intent behind s 44(2) of the Reserves Act was to control permanent occupation of reserves by individual campers during the main holiday season to the exclusion of others on an unequal basis.

The ASH arrangement was ~~officially first~~ established in 1998 and was intended to be temporary to generate additional revenue for the purpose of funding capital developments and the upgrading of facilities. The facilities at the time were not to standard and did not meet health and safety requirements.

The Ministers delegate approved and exercised the discretion available under s44(2) of the Reserves Act for this arrangement. This was on the basis that the Ministers delegate was satisfied the annual allocation of some sites was the only way to generate the funding required and that the public interest was being served by a major upgrade of the facilities at the camp.

It was made clear to the Board that as the loans were repaid and the financial needs of the Board eased, there would need to be a reduction in the number of sites allocated in this way, ultimately phasing out altogether.

It is the department's understanding that the ASH financing of capital developments and the upgrading of facilities is no longer required, as loans have now been repaid and financial needs have eased.

The Ministers delegate has provided a s44(2) consent in the years since 2010 on the grounds that there has been a steady decline in the long-term occupations, which to date has been through natural attrition. However, for the current 2018/19 year there has been a reduction of only 1 ASH site. If this was to continue at one per year, it would take a considerable number of years before the ASH could cease.

Consent was granted on 14 September 2018 for 77 annual site holders to leave caravans, tents or other removable structures on the camp site for a period of more than 4 weeks during the period commencing on the 1st day of November 2018 and ending on the 31st day of March 2019.

Future management

Given the increasing pressure of the availability of sites in Camp Waipu Cove during the week holiday season the Ministers delegate has decided that all of the ASH sites must be made available to the general public within a reasonable timeframe.

Following a meeting between the department and Reserves Board it was agreed that 5 years is a reasonable timeframe to expect the ASH to vacate their camp sites. The Minister's delegate will therefore not be consenting to any ASH occupations following the 2024/2025 summer period. The Board will still require consent from the Ministers delegate for the ASH from now up until the 2024/25 summer period.