



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

26 February 2019

Waipu Cove Domain Recreation Reserve Board
C/- John Henderson, Board Chairperson
869 Cove Road
RD2, Waipu
New Zealand

Dear Waipu Cove Domain Recreation Reserve Board

Thank you for meeting with the department on 11 October 2018 to discuss the Annual Site Holders (ASH).

The ASH arrangement was 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 1977 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 in 1998 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 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 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.

Whangarei Office

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Following our discussions at the meeting, we 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.

Please ensure that in your revised Management Plan it is made clear that all ASH will cease following the 2024/25 summer period.

It would be advisable that the Board now take action to ensure that ASH are made aware that from 2025/2026 ASH Agreements will not be provided.

Yours sincerely



Louisa Gritt

Whangarei Operations Manager
Department of Conservation

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