

Draft Waimea-Moutere Reserves Management Plan

MDCA Subcommittee Submission – Lou Gallagher and Bruno Lemke, Future Wildlife Corridors subcommittee MDCA

Preamble (not part of submission)

As members of the Future Wildlife Corridors Subcommittee of the MDCA we would like MDCA members to look at our submissions and send up feedback of anything else we should include. We are both speaking to these submissions on 28th February so we will need feedback by then. Send feedback to lou.m.gallagher@gmail.com.

Submission:

The Future Wildlife Corridors in Mapua subcommittee has two objectives:

1. To identify suitable land areas with potential to support new wildlife corridors in the Mapua area, with a focus on native bird habitat
2. To explore ways that such land can be protected by QEII Covenant and managed by the Mapua Community for the purposes of public education and enjoyment.

General Comments:

We are very much in support of the Key Changes to the Draft Waimea-Moutere Reserves Management Plan, and the overall need to balance a range of interests with limited resources.

The objectives of our subcommittee align well with items 1 through 7 of the Key Changes document.

As stated in item 17 of the Key Changes document, a balance needs to be struck between improvements for humans in outdoor spaces while maintaining habitat for wildlife. Looking at the maps provided, the number of reserves is high but the space provided to wildlife is minimal. We would like to see MORE wild space for native species and LESS space dedicated to humans, since humans already dominate the landscape. Our collective interests are served by protecting a healthy ecosystem that supports native wildlife habitat.

Interconnection of reserves in Mapua

Mapua has been designated a high growth area. It is imperative that we maintain reserves in the area for both wild life and pleasant walking tracks for residents.

There are a number of small reserves that border on 49 Stafford Drive Ruby Bay (Lot3 DP/117). These reserves don't go anywhere and end on busy roads.

Further it is likely that 49 Stafford drive will be subdivided in the near future and part of it will act as a water detention channel. It would be logical if the 3 reserves can eventually be interlinked: The Catherine Road Recreational reserve to Seaton Valley Road Reserve to 49 Stafford Drive when it is developed, to Stafford Drive Drain Walkway and then via a number of proposed reserves to the mouth of the Seaton Valley stream. This would be a great extensive network of reserve land circling the Mapua Village, plus a way to make multiple use of the proposed water detention channel in 49 Stafford Drive.

TDC spraying collateral damage: Item 3 of the Key Changes document highlights a significant area for TDC improvement. It's easy enough to see where the herbicide sprays are used on the roadside. Spraying directly onto the immediate verge of road between the Moutere Inlet and Kina Beach Road and Kina Peninsula Road is bad enough for native grasses and sedges but also for the invertebrates that live at the edges of this inlet.

Map 21: Research Orchard Road Esplanade Reserves, Lot 18 DP 410968; we understand there are two privately funded projects (Battle for the Banded Rail and Forest and Bird) planting native trees and trapping pests surrounding this parcel. The large grassy area just off the car park seems under-utilized. While it is near the sea, there is no sea view and there are no swimming areas in this part of the reserve. Converting this lawn into trees that could provide shade protection and soil stabilisation would have the added and essential benefit of connecting wildlife corridors on all sides. Contiguity of small scraps of wild space increases their individual values and creates a much larger benefit for native species.

Nesting birds at Baigents Recreational Reserve are less than protected from people; garbage, motorized vehicles careening over nesting sites, fires and freedom campers are real and present dangers to what was intended to be a peaceful spot for family picnics. While community members are stepping up and running trapping lines, picking up garbage, etc. we need a management plan that protects the interests of the public and wildlife in the next 10 years.