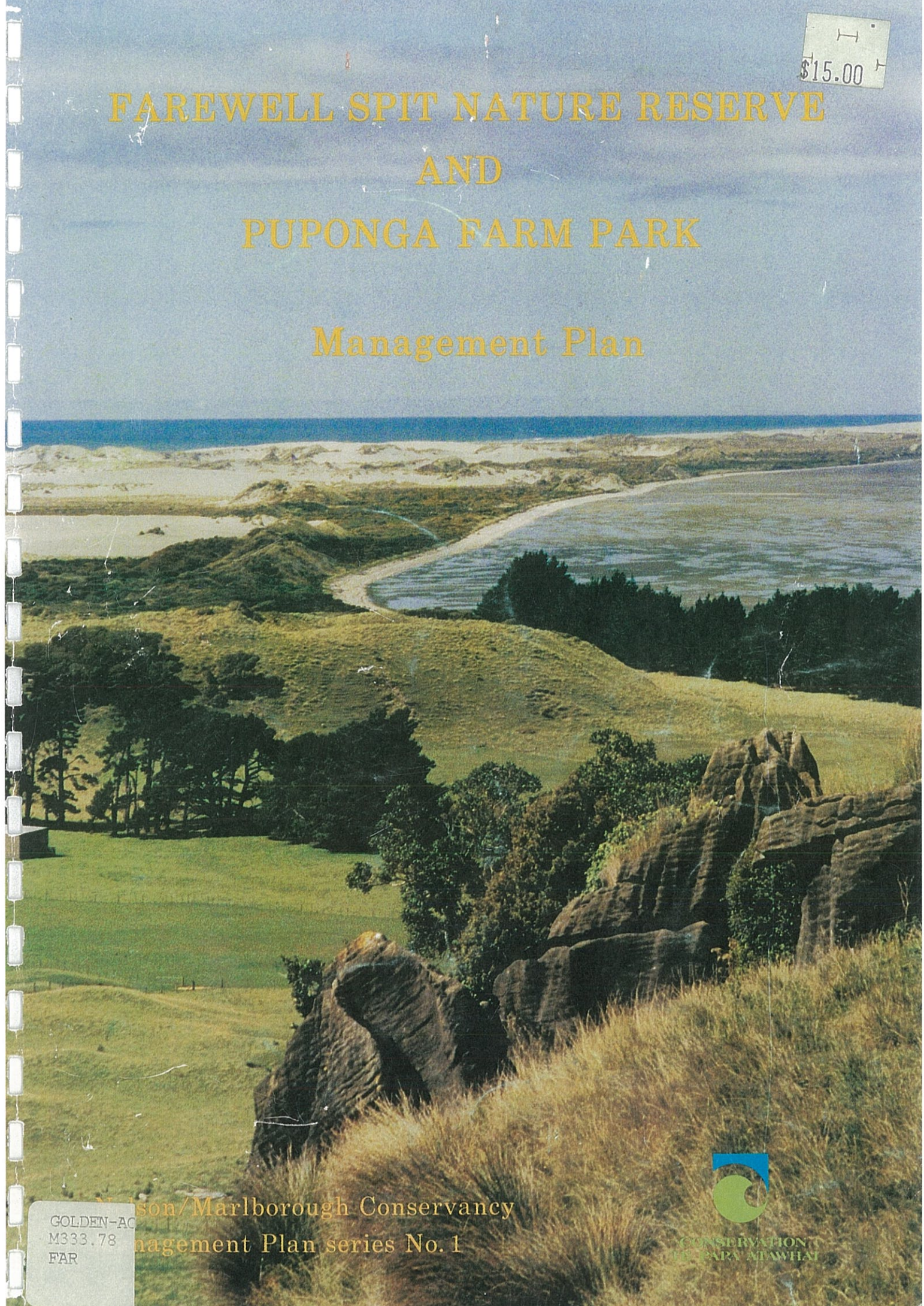


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FAREWELL SPIT NATURE RESERVE AND PUPONGA FARM PARK Management Plan



Golden-Acacia/Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy
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FAR



CONSERVATION
DEPARTMENT
TE PAPA ATAWHAI

FAREWELL SPIT NATURE RESERVE

AND

PUPONGA FARM PARK

MANAGEMENT PLAN

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January 1990

**FAREWELL SPIT NATURE RESERVE AND
PUPONGA FARM PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN 1991-2001**

This joint management plan for Farewell Spit Nature Reserve and Puponga Farm Park was prepared in accordance with both the Reserves Act 1977 section 41 and the Conservation Act 1987 section 11. It is the first plan for these two important natural areas.

The draft plan was released for public comment in May 1989. Fourteen submissions were received. The final plan incorporating many small changes was submitted to the Nelson Conservation Board and approved.

Dated this 6th day of December 1990



Chairman
Nelson Conservation Board

PREFACE

This management plan was initiated as early as 1982 in two parts: as a plan for Farewell Spit Nature Reserve; and a plan for Puponga Farm Park, then only a single farm. Many changes have ensued in the intervening years and although the Farewell Spit plan was submitted for public comment, that for Puponga Farm Park did not reach that stage. The close relationship between the two areas in several areas of management and an intention to reduce the number of management plans means that it is highly desirable to combine the plans for the two areas. The plan is intended primarily as a policy document. Resource information has been compiled in a separate document.

Changes in the legislation now mean that parts of the farm park fall under the Conservation Act 1987 consequently this plan is prepared in accordance with both the Reserves Act 1977 section 41 and the Conservation Act 1987 section 11.

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MANAGEMENT PLAN

FAREWELL SPIT NATURE RESERVE AND PUPONGA FARM PARK

INTRODUCTION

Farewell Spit lies at the northernmost point of the South Island, some 160 km from Nelson (Map 1). Puponga Farm Park and in particular Puponga Farm lies at the base of the Spit and joins with the northernmost corner of North-west Nelson Forest Park.

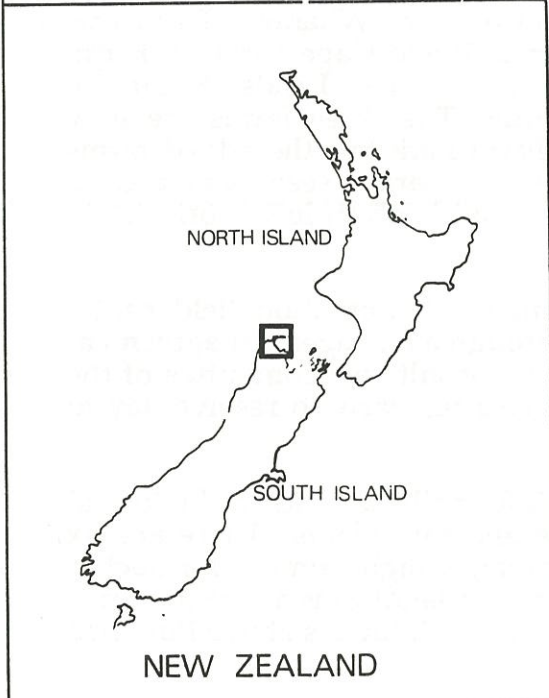
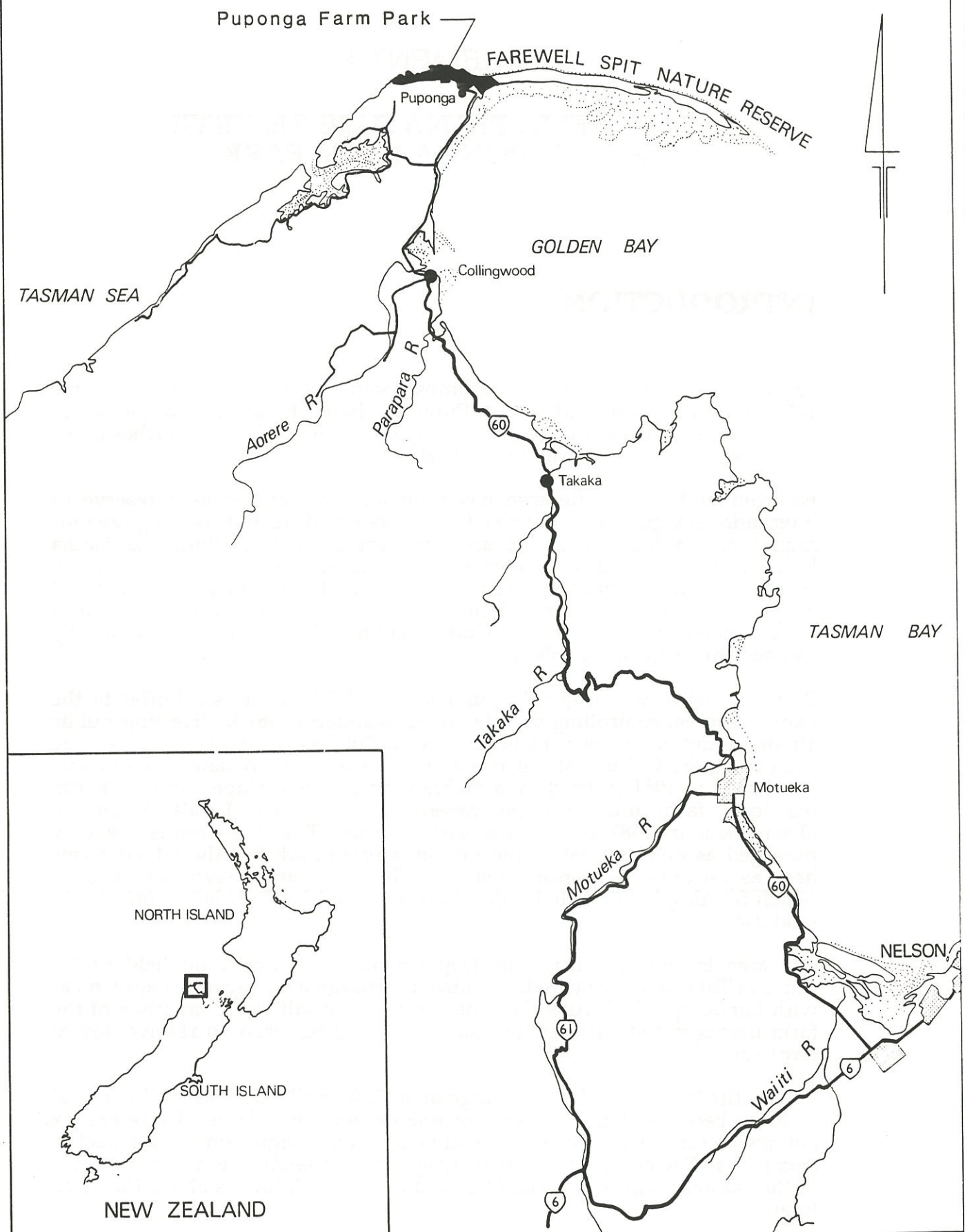
Farewell Spit Nature Reserve has been long recognised as a reserve of international significance because it is a major feeding and roosting area for migratory wading birds. The area was set aside as a Flora and Fauna Reserve in 1938 but in 1980 its status was altered to nature reserve and the surrounding inter-tidal zone set aside as a wildlife sanctuary. It is classified as a wetland of international significance under the Ramsar Convention of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and is one of only five such areas in New Zealand.

Puponga Farm was originally purchased in 1974 to act as a buffer to the nature reserve, controlling vehicle access, wandering stock, diverting public attention and acting as a major fire break. But its own natural values were soon recognised. Currently it is a recreation reserve. Wharariki Farm was purchased in 1981 to produce a viable farm unit and Cape Farewell Farm, the third farm unit, was purchased by the former Lands & Survey Department in 1987 to link the earlier farms. The three farms are now managed as one unit called the Puponga Farm Park but the added farms have as yet to be given reserve status. The farm park is seen as an area in which farming is integrated around reserves and is given lower priority in land use.

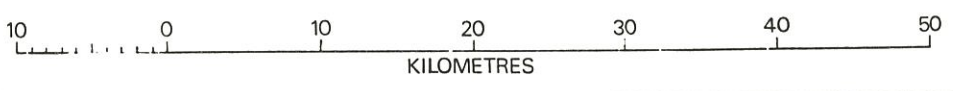
The area is managed from the Department of Conservation field centre office in Takaka, but day to day control is through a management agreement with Landcorp which runs the farm park. A consultative committee of the farm manager and field station manager meets regularly to resolve day to day problems.

Within the farm park there are large areas informally set aside as biological reserves because of the presence of unique and rare plants. There are six species of rare and endangered plants present, a high number for such a small area. The coastal cliffs are truly spectacular landforms as are the crags of the coastal range, especially Old Man Rock which towers above Puponga Inlet.

The area has a rich cultural heritage attested by the Abel Head Pa and almost continuous midden at Triangle Flat on Puponga Farm. It is a prominent point on the New Zealand coastline as demonstrated by the attentions of early European explorers and the numerous wrecks which



LOCATION



have occurred on the nature reserve. There are lighthouses at Pillar Point and near the tip of the Spit. Pillar Point was also the site of a wartime radar station.

The area has a high potential for outdoor recreation, but its remoteness from major centres of population has meant that use to date has been low key, peaking at the height of the summer holidays. There is also a potential for specialised concessions based upon the diversity and uniqueness of the wildlife on the farm park and the special status of the nature reserve. Such concessions would need to be carefully managed.

Farewell Spit Nature Reserve requires special attention because its diversity of wildlife and importance as a feeding ground for migratory birds. At the same time public use of the farm park should not be ignored but rather investigated and fostered.

Farewell Spit Nature Reserve is essentially kept closed to the public in order to protect the bird life. Even access by departmental staff is restricted at most times. The importance of the nature reserve places major demands on the management of Puponga Farm as noted earlier. These demands for fire protection, weed and stock control are so strong that it is essential to maintain the Puponga Farm in pasture even if the current management agreement is not continued. Farming practices may place constraints on the recreational use of the farm blocks by limiting access within the farm park at critical periods such as lambing but these occasions are very limited. For the most part recreational pressures are low and the limitations do not seriously interfere with the visitor

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The bird life of the Farewell Spit Nature Reserve is of international significance and it was for the protection of the nature reserve and wildlife sanctuary that Puponga Farm was originally purchased. Later purchases of Wharariki and Cape Farewell Farms were to produce a viable farm management unit and to conserve biological and landscape values but they also offered further opportunities for public recreation. These factors determine the principal management objectives.

1. *Protection of the indigenous flora and fauna of Farewell Spit Nature Reserve.*
2. *Protection of the natural landscape, landforms and ecosystems throughout the nature reserve and farm park.*
3. *Manage the farm park for the protection of Farewell Spit Nature Reserve.*
4. *Protect the historical values associated with Maori and European land use on the farm park and nature reserve.*
5. *Provide opportunities for rural-based recreation on the farm park.*

Management and use of the farm park is orientated towards integration of conservation, farming, recreation, and education. Farming although constrained by the need to protect important landscape and biotic values, should be as efficient as possible. Activities such as walking, picnicking and swimming will be fostered within the farm park and its environs but access to the nature reserve will remain severely restricted.

1. MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

1.1 Approach to management - principles

Puponga Farm Park will continue to serve primarily as a buffer zone for Farewell Spit Nature Reserve and as a visitor management and servicing area for the nature reserve.

The danger of harmful elements spreading onto or affecting Farewell Spit Nature Reserve can be reduced by fencing, fire protection measures and weed control. As Puponga Farm is the closest point of public access to the nature reserve, it serves to control vehicle and walking access.

Farm management needs to be in sympathy with the natural values and should seek to have a minimal impact upon them. This may mean controlling fertiliser application to minimise eutrophication of the dune lakes and fencing of the swamps and lakes to prevent stock access. Public use of the farm park will be encouraged in such a way as to influence the habitat to the smallest practical extent for example people should remove all their own rubbish. At the same time provision will be made for education about wildlife, nature conservation, the history of human settlement and farming.

1.1.1

The farm park will be managed to act as a barrier or buffer to any event or activity which may have a harmful effect on Farewell Spit Nature Reserve.

1.1.2

The minimum impact code will be promoted to the public.

1.1.3

Road end facilities on the farm park will provide educational opportunities for day visitors to remove pressure from the nature reserve.

1.1.4

Management on the farm park will protect the indigenous flora, fauna and natural features of the reserves, particularly the nature reserve.

1.1.5

The area will be managed so that its waters are as far as practicable maintained in their natural state.

1.2 Management constraints

At present the administered area is under four tenures. The Spit is nature reserve; the inter-tidal zone is wildlife sanctuary with restrictions on access; Wharariki and most of Cape Farewell Farm is stewardship; and Puponga Farm and part of Cape Farewell Farm are Recreation Reserve. The status of the nature reserve will need to be reviewed to more closely reflect its use and values which need protection when the projected changes in the legislation are complete.

The farm park must be seen as a reserve on which farming occurs, a place where conservation activities take precedence over farming. Care must be taken to ensure that there is no conflict between the variety of uses of the land on the farm park. Planning for integration of uses is essential if the landscape is to remain a harmonious one, and to meet the demands of production, protection and recreation. For instance stock shelter is required and in many areas this is may best provided by kanuka or other native vegetation. Fertilising and grazing lead to eutrophication of the lakes and although this may be reduced by fencing lake and stream margins, costs are high and exclusion of large areas may seriously affect farm production.

Parts of Wharariki Farm lie within North-west Nelson Forest Park and forest areas of the farm along the southern boundary are indistinguishable from the forest park. In these areas it may be appropriate to consider one as an extension of the other and apply uniform policies. For instance hunting in parts of Wharariki Farm is inseparable from that of the forest park and hunting permit issue should reflect this.

The farm park is currently farmed under an agreement with Landcorp and this may place minor restrictions on recreational use such as during lambing or at times of high fire risk.

1.2.1

Moves will be made to rationalise tenures and place the whole of the farm park in the appropriate status under the Conservation or other appropriate Act.

1.2.2

For the purposes of this plan the boundary between North-west Nelson Forest Park and the farm park will be taken as the forest edge, where the two units adjoin.

1.2.3

The farm park will be managed in accordance with the farm management agreement taking full account of the management plan objectives.

1.2.4

In achieving conservation objectives account will be taken of farm management requirements.

1.3 Maori values

Maori heritage relates closely to the landscape and weaves conspicuous landforms into tribal history and legend so that each place has a spiritual or cultural value. Management needs to understand and be sensitive to these values.

1.3.1

The need to understand and respect the Maori cultural values of the area will be fully recognised in management of the area.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

2. NATURE PROTECTION AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

2.1 Landscape integrity and protection

The area is renowned for its varied landforms, landscape features, patterns of vegetation and open space qualities. On the nature reserve natural processes such as sand movement will not be interrupted through sand stabilisation measures or tree planting but within the farm park there is a wide range of habitat where integrated use is possible but may be vulnerable to change if not managed wisely. Farm management may require some regulation of use, or enhancement, rehabilitation or protective measures, in the course of normal management.

In particular, special attention will need to be given to the siting and design of farm structures.

2.1.1

All natural changes in landform or indigenous biota will be accepted as part of a natural evolution of the nature reserve.

2.1.2

Management practices within the farm park will ensure that landforms, landscape features and lakes are protected and that patterns of vegetation and open space qualities are retained.

2.1.3

The siting and design of buildings, roads, tracks, services, fences and other facilities on the farm park will respect the landscape character of the site.

2.2 Protected areas

The nature reserve is fully protected (Map 2, appended) but the farm park contains areas of outstanding biological value in the moorlands, swamps and forest remnants. The current protected areas legislation is under review but a status permitting protection and management of protected areas within the farm would be desirable for these areas (Map 3, appended).

The unique vegetation of manuka moorlands which results in part from the extreme soil infertility, requires careful protection. Any alteration of soil fertility could jeopardise the future of the moorlands.

In the past many swamps have been drained. Those that remain have added value and need protection from further damage through fencing (see §4.1) or perhaps restoration. An investigative programme is required to identify and classify these areas. The oligotrophic lakes such as Island Lake also require protection from stock and aerial topdressing to reduce eutrophication. As a means of protection, no action will be taken which will modify the natural lake or swamp levels. All unmodified or slightly modified wetlands will be protected through fencing and appropriate zoning. Opportunities for restoration will be implemented as resources permit.

The rugged rocky coast of the farm park with resident seal colonies has potential as a marine reserve. Similarly, although the shore to low water level is protected within the nature reserve, protection of the sub-tidal zone through a marine reserve may have considerable beneficial impact on the birdlife of the nature reserve. For these reasons the shore lines of the farm park and nature reserve should be investigated to demonstrate suitability as marine reserves.

2.2.1

The appropriate protective status will be sought for the Old Man reserve manuka moorlands and other areas requiring protection.

2.2.2

The Old Man reserve is to be left to regenerate naturally.

2.2.3

Swamps and slightly modified wetlands on the farm park will be fenced and left undrained, or if modified in the past will not be further modified.

2.2.4

Drained and modified wetlands will be investigated and restored, where practicable.

2.2.5

The farm manager will ensure that topdressing operators take the necessary precautions to prevent enrichment of the manuka moorlands and oligotrophic lakes from fertiliser drift.

2.2.6

The level of tracking and facilities within important ecosystems will be kept to a minimum.

2.2.7

Investigations will be carried out to formulate proposals for marine reserves for coastal areas adjacent to the park.

2.3 Water quality

The quality of the waters around the nature reserve is very important for the invertebrates on which the bird life feeds and should be carefully safeguarded. The major threats to water quality are seen to be aquaculture, and shellfish harvests in the sub-littoral zone adjacent to the nature reserve. Oil spills are regarded as a major problem and treated separately in §2.10.

2.3.1

Water quality matters relating to marine and foreshore areas adjacent to the farm park will be monitored in co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, local authorities or other appropriate controlling authorities.

2.4 Native flora and fauna

The bird life of the nature reserve is a primary consideration in management of the area. Activities likely to disturb bird life will be considered only if required for essential management purposes. e.g. banding of bird species. The manuka moorlands within the farm park contain an important colony of *Powelliphanta* land snails and birds such as the bittern and fern bird are present in the swamps. The status of indigenous freshwater fish in the area is unknown but rare fish potentially exist because of the absence of introduced fish. These habitats need protection.

2.4.1

As far as is possible, the bird life of Farewell Spit Nature Reserve will be protected from any form of molestation or disturbance.

2.4.2

The main bird feeding, roosting and nesting areas will be kept free from disturbance by limiting access to them.

2.4.3

Wildlife habitat on the farm park will be protected within the farming operation by sympathetic management.

The flora in the nature reserve is fully protected, but propagation of some of the rare species may be desirable to increase the population size or restore some areas. On the reserves within the farm park a number of rare and endangered plant species are present and these must be fully protected.

2.4.4

Removal of plant material from the nature reserve for propagation purposes will be subject to a detailed work plan and subject to the approval of the Regional Conservator.

2.4.5

No rare or endangered plant is to be removed from the farm park or nature reserve without permission from the Regional Conservator.

2.5 Introduced flora

The vast inter-tidal zone is an essential part of the nature reserve and must be maintained in a natural state. Cord grass was present but has been successfully removed. It has the potential to invade almost the whole area and so careful monitoring is required to ensure that it does not reappear. The terrestrial part of the nature reserve is in a highly modified state and is dependent upon many introduced plants for the maintenance of vegetated areas and colonisation of bare areas. The exotic component of the vegetation may well play a significant role in the return of indigenous ecosystems. For instance, marram and lupins are significant for sand fixing on the dunes. On the other hand, noxious weed infestations such as boxthorn should be controlled before they become widely established and a serious problem.

2 !!
o ,
Lotus

Conifers and other trees are an integral part of the farm park environment and trees showing little potential for spread but providing shelter, such as at the Farewell Spit lighthouse, should be retained.

2 Wey
o

Weed control should not be carried out if it can be seen to be ecologically undesirable or ineffective. Plants on the farm park, which are considered a problem and highly undesirable on the nature reserve include boxthorn, and banana passionfruit. Gorse, climbing dock and pampas are species of particular concern on the nature reserve and concerted action is required.

There is a legal obligation to remove noxious weeds from all lands but adjacent landowners should work in concert rather than isolation. Control on the DoC estate may be particularly ineffective when similar control is absent on adjacent lands. It may also be undesirable where problem areas are especially distant such as with the nature reserve where the farm park acts as a buffer.

Moorlands, dwarfed plant associations on the poorest soils, and young dune associations are very susceptible to invasion and modification by adventive plants present in adjacent shrublands. Conifers should be removed from within reserve areas particularly from the recently burnt parts of the Old Man reserve. Here control methods should be sensitive to the environment and such that the damage done in weed removal is not greater than that where natural processes such as plant successions are used for control.

2.5.1

Priorities for the control or eradication of introduced weed species will be established under an operational plan.

Has that been written?

2.5.2

Islands of infestation will be eliminated as a matter of high priority.

2.5.3

Every effort will be made to keep the inter-tidal area of the nature reserve free of cord grass.

2.5.4

Conifers and other exotic trees will be removed from natural areas where they have no intrinsic value.

2.5.5

Where shown to be practicable and not detrimental to other objectives, other introduced plants will be eradicated.

2.5.6

Close liaison will be maintained with owners and managers of adjoining land and the local authority noxious plants officer.

2.5.7

Methods of control or eradication of weed species in reserves must be such that serious damage to the indigenous vegetation is minimal.

2.5.8

In reserves, herbicides, pesticides and poisons will be used solely for control of introduced species only where other alternatives are not practical.

2.6 Introduced fauna

2.6.1 Deer and other ungulates

At present deer and other wild ungulate numbers are low and are not causing a problem in the area. Deer numbers on the nature reserve are very low and their total removal may be possible. Hunting opportunities on the farm park are limited and the nature reserve is closed to recreational hunters. The larger forest areas within the farm park that are contiguous with the North-west Nelson Forest Park are managed as part of it and are available for hunting.

2.6.1.1

Control of deer, goats and pigs within the farm park and nature reserve will be undertaken by local staff.

2.6.2 Small mammals-possums, rodents, cats, mustelids

Small mammals such as feral cats and mustelids pose a threat to nesting birds, especially rare species. In the past trapping for mustelids and cats has occurred near the lighthouse. In a few cases where it may be necessary to control the pests the operation must be under a detailed work plan.

Possums are present throughout but generally at low densities. Damage has been recorded in the coastal kohekohe and rata forests near Fossil Point and is causing concern.

2.6.2.1

Control operations will be undertaken as necessary against possums, hares or any other such species (e.g. feral cats, mustelids etc.) which are considered a threat to indigenous flora and fauna.

2.6.3 Domestic stock

The main problems on the nature reserve arise through grazing, trampling and weed spread from straying domestic stock. Stray stock on the nature reserve can only originate from Puponga Farm by spread along the beaches and this must be prevented. Wharariki and Green Hills Beaches are protected by fencing and should be kept stock free. Wharariki and Cape Farewell Farms also suffer from stray stock wandering onto the farms from adjacent properties and this needs to be handled in the appropriate way.

all from farms

2.6.3.1

Domestic stock will not be permitted on any of the beaches and straying stock must be promptly removed.

2.6.3.2

All domestic animals or livestock straying into the farm park will be dealt with in terms of Section 96 of the Reserves Act or Section 36 of the Conservation Act.

2.6.4 Game birds

Game bird shooting is prohibited in the nature reserve and not normally permitted in the farm park (§8.2). One species, the black swan, poses a problem in the nature reserve. Over 10,000 black swans from Lake Wairarapa and the West Coast use the nature reserve as a major moulting area and may pose a competitive threat to indigenous species. To date they are largely migratory and only a few hundred pairs nest locally, but numbers are increasing.

black swan

2.6.4.1

Control of the swan population will be considered if research shows that indigenous species are threatened by food competition from swans.

2.6.5 Fish

There are no existing freshwater fisheries within the area and existing waters are to remain free of introduced fish. Pristine waters are becoming rare and for this reason are to be particularly valued.

2.6.5.1

Introduced fish will not be liberated in any of the lakes or waterways of the nature reserve or farm park and will be removed if found.

2.7 Archaeological and cultural sites

As the farm park is both a farming operation and a recreational area there is potential to unintentionally destroy or damage historic sites. There are six known Maori occupation sites, the largest of which is the midden at Triangle Flat. Special features such as archaeological sites are fully protected under the Historic Places Act 1975, but they may be used for their inherent educational and scientific values. The most significant European site identified to date is the old radar site at Pillar Point.

Historic sites and archaeological sites are the responsibility of the Historic Places Trust and must be managed according to the Historic Places Act 1975.

Under the Antiquities Act 1975, the discovery of any artifact must be notified to the Secretary of Internal Affairs or to the nearest public museum within 28 days.

2.7.1

Investigations and surveys will continue to be undertaken to identify archaeological, historic and traditional sites, and to determine the level of protection they should be afforded.

2.7.2

Close liaison will be maintained with the Historic Places Trust for professional guidance in managing historic and archaeological sites.

2.7.3

Any proposal to modify an archaeological or historic site must first be submitted to the Historic Places Trust for approval.

2.7.4

Where archaeological sites are on farmed land, farming practices will be implemented which have minimal impact on the sites.

2.7.5

Tracks for farm or recreational use will, where practical, pass around and not over known archaeological sites.

2.7.6

Grazing on archaeological sites will be minimised during wet periods, especially in winter.

2.8 Maori cultural sites

The park and environs contain many sites of cultural significance and resource use to the tangata whenua. Many have yet to be formally recorded.

In the final Maori invasion of the district in the late 1820's the previous occupiers, Ngati Apa and remnants of the Ngati Tumatakokiri were conquered by Ngati Rarua, Ngati Tama and Ngati Toa. The descendants of the members of these tribes who settled the district are the tangata whenua families of Golden Bay today. While few now live in the immediate neighbourhood of the farm park they retain their links to the area through their direct ownership of nearby Maori reserve land and their share holding in Whakatu Incorporation.

The first european owner of the farm block was James MacKay - farmer, surveyor and Government Land Purchase Commissioner - who bought the property from his close friend, Tamaiti Piri Marino and the other chiefs who were trustees of the estate.

There is a need to be aware of the tangata whenua and to take appropriate action when their inputs are required. Farewell Spit has a strong cultural significance and needs to be treated with proper sensitivity for the cultural values and awareness of the long history of traditional resource use by tangata whenua.

Significant sites are protected on historical or archaeological grounds but still need to be managed with due regard for the tangata whenua values present, Abel Head Pa for example, was a significant pa site.

2.8.1

Wherever possible cultural sites will be identified and, in consultation with the Maori people, protected in whatever way is appropriate.

2.9 Fire

Fire protection procedures for the area are contained within the Nelson Conservancy Fire Plan but some special local circumstances prevail. Due to the orientation of the nature reserve and prevailing strong westerly winds, fires from adjacent properties are likely to be difficult to control. To assist control, a firebreak will be formed alongside Wharariki Road and a dam and access track will be built in Whau Creek to provide a water supply for firefighting.

An important aspect of prevention however, is lowering the risks of fire within and especially outside the area, where fire is regarded as an essential tool for management. As a protection, fires within 1.5 km of the area require a permit to ensure that proper safeguards are met.

Within the farm park, fire may be required for the maintenance of the present pasture through burning of cut rushes to prevent drain blockages, or to remove limited areas of tauhinu, manuka or kanuka regrowth where clean pasture is being invaded.

Fire risk in the nature reserve is high particularly during the summer months when visitor use is high. For this reason smoking is banned within the nature reserve and this ban is strictly enforced during the safari trips.

2.9.1

Puponga Farm acts as a significant firebreak protecting the nature reserve from adjacent shrublands and will continue to be managed for this purpose.

2.9.2

Fire may be used as a tool only under stringent conditions, where it can be shown to be essential for farm management.

2.9.3

Lighting of fires within occupied land adjoining the farm park will be subject to a permit issued by the legal authority.

2.9.4

Good fire prevention relations will be maintained with neighbouring land owners, catchment authorities, adjacent fire control authorities and with the visiting public.

2.9.5

Smoking is prohibited on the nature reserve.

2.10 Oil spills

Oil spills from ship grounding or wreck in the vicinity of the nature reserve could pose a major threat to large numbers of birds at certain times of the year. Prompt action will be required to minimise the problem.

Local staff have the training and expertise to advise on minimising risk and de-oiling of affected birds, and should be fully prepared for an oil spill through a contingency plan.

2.10.1

Close liaison will be maintained with the Ministry of Transport in the event of a major oil spill or shipwreck.

2.10.2

A local contingency plan will be drawn up to deal with oil spills in the vicinity of the nature reserve.

2.11 Whale strandings

Pilot whale strandings are a regular occurrence in the nature reserve but other species may strand from time to time. This must be regarded as a natural event, contributing to the ecosystem of the nature reserve through nutrient inputs etc. In many cases the sites will be difficult to reach because of the very wide shallow inter-tidal zone or attempted rescues may cause undue disturbance to the birdlife and habitat. In these cases rescue attempts may be impractical. The majority of strandings however, occur near the base of the spit on the inner side. In these cases any action will be determined by the rarity, location and bulk of the animal.

2.11.1

Where strandings are noticed in time rescue may be attempted.

2.11.2

Carcasses will not be removed and buried unless it is practical and they present a public nuisance.

2.11.3

Removal of bone or ivory will be in terms of DOC policy.

3. LAND ACQUISITION AND ALIENATION

The area contains two lighthouses, one on the farm park and the other on the nature reserve, surrounding which there is now only a small area of land retained by the Ministry of Transport.

The road into Wharariki Farm, which goes past the present car park, is managed as part of the farm park. It now gives physical access only within Wharariki Farm. To ensure it is managed sympathetically, it should be resumed and incorporated into the reserve. The entire coastline of the property of Wharariki and Cape Farewell Farms is also unformed road. The resumption of this reserve and incorporation into the farm park would firmly place control of the foreshore with the farm park.

3.1

Unformed legal roads which run through Wharariki and Cape Farewell Farms will be resumed and included in the reserve.

4. SITE MODIFICATION AND REPAIR (ACTIVE MANAGEMENT)

4.1 Fencing

The nature reserve and a number of biological reserves within the farm are at risk from grazing. Browsing and trampling by stock depletes the understorey of forests, preventing regeneration. On young dunes, this trampling can be very destructive by eliminating the ground cover including endangered species such as pingao and silvery dune grass and re-mobilising the dunes. On the ecologically valuable islands damage can result in severe modification to the ecosystem and predisposition to erosion.

With stock management on the farm park, straying stock continually pose a threat to the nature and other reserves. Considerable areas have already been fenced at Puponga and Wharariki but priorities within Cape Farewell Farm have yet to be examined. Within the farm some areas of shrubland will need to remain unfenced as stock shelter. Placement of fences on long boundaries with major areas such as that with Wharariki Beach reserve serves to provide shelter and leaves an irregular natural edge. The farms have not been fully examined since the formation of the department (1987) consequently the whole farm park should be surveyed in consultation with conservation groups to determine fencing needs and to draw up a fencing programme.

Map 3 (at rear) shows the areas currently considered worthy of protection from stock grazing, the most important of these is the nature reserve. Current urgent priorities are fencing of the forest margin at Wharariki Farm and the swamps at Cape Farewell Farm.

4.1.1

The present fence between Puponga Farm and Farewell Spit Nature Reserve will be maintained in a stockproof condition.

4.1.2

The remaining unfenced areas will be examined for biological values and a detailed fencing work programme drawn up.

4.1.3

All fences protecting areas of natural vegetation will be maintained in a stockproof condition.

4.2 Replanting and habitat restoration

At present the exact nature of the original vegetation of the nature reserve is unknown. It is therefore considered inappropriate to introduce native plant species even in the belief that they may have once been present on the nature reserve. | pollen

Sand blowouts are an occasional occurrence on the farm park. There should be no constraints on treatment of these sites. The larger affected areas should be fenced off and the most appropriate techniques used, but consideration should be given to re-establishment in indigenous species.

Within the farm park there are several small areas of vegetation which require protection and possibly enhancement. These cases need to be treated in sympathy with natural processes. The best examples of this problem are the fenced kanuka stands on Puponga Farm which need nursery-raised kanuka seedlings established around the perimeter and in canopy gaps to ensure perpetuation.

In a few areas habitat restoration is desirable. Examples include the area between the limestone outcrops on the hill country at Puponga Farm and some of the modified swamps of Cape Farewell and Wharariki Farms.

4.2.1

Apart from essential weed control, new surfaces on the nature reserve (e.g. dunes) will be allowed to colonise naturally.

4.2.2

Rehabilitation of eroded sites within the farm park should be completed by farm staff following consultation between the farm manager and the Field Station Manager.

4.2.3

Other than on the nature reserve natural successions will be managed only where an association is threatened by loss.

4.2.4

Where intervention is necessary, preference will be given to techniques which replicate natural processes as closely as possible.

4.2.5

Where plantings are to establish new or protect existing native stands, seed will be taken from within the immediate area or at least from the same ecological district.

4.2.6

On the farm park, attention will be given to restoration of important habitats which contain locally rare species or communities of limited extent.

4.3 Farming

Much of the farm park is in good quality pasture and this makes an important contribution to the overall landscape values of the area. For many people, the ability to walk freely over well cared for farmland is a major recreational activity and this is an essential part of the experience offered to visitors at the farm park. Farming, while necessarily in balance with the protection of indigenous flora and fauna, and with reasonable public use of the land, should be as efficient as possible in order to provide the best returns.

The farm is currently managed under an agreement with Landcorp which details the character of the management, but the following principles apply:

- (a) The farmland is enclosed by and contains zoned reserves which often contain rare flora or fauna and this habitat must be fully protected.
- (b) Puponga Farm is an essential buffer for the protection of the nature reserve from stray stock and fire. For this reason the bulk of the area must remain in well developed pasture.
- (c) Open space, provided through good farm management, is needed to enhance the landscape quality.

4.3.1

The farm park will be managed to protect soil and water conservation values, enhance public enjoyment and access, and provide protection for natural ecosystems.

4.3.2

Grazing management, fertiliser application and judicious oversowing will be used to promote high producing species to form well developed pasture on the farm park.

4.3.3

Further extensions to the area under intensive farm management on the farm park will only be carried out after detailed investigation of biological values.

4.3.4

If the farm park can no longer be managed by Landcorp every effort will be made to maintain Puponga Farm in pasture.

4.4 Habitat manipulation

From time to time there is pressure to lightly graze or mow lake edges in the nature reserve to improve the bird habitat. This is incompatible with the nature reserve status of the area because it is manipulation of an essentially natural system. interesting
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Studies indicate that the moorland community on Wharariki Farm was induced and maintained by grazing and will disappear if this ceases. The association is unusual and contains several rare plants which could be at risk if the community disappears through natural succession. The area has been fenced and the department, in consultation with its botanical advisors will implement a grazing regime which will maintain this association. This programme should be fully monitored with adequate scientific controls.

4.4.1

Livestock will not be re-introduced into Farewell Spit Nature Reserve.

4.4.2

Controlled grazing undertaken on the manuka moorlands of Wharariki will be monitored to determine the intensity required to maintain the unique values.

4.5 Shelter plantings

Trees may be required for the purposes of soil conservation, shelter, amenity, screening buildings and production within the farm park but establishment needs to be organised under a planting plan and programme.

4.5.1

Tree planting for shelter, woodlots or amenity will respect the landscape character of the site.

4.5.2

Any planting for farm management should be under an approved plan.

5. RESEARCH AND MONITORING

5.1 General

The conservancy advisory scientist co-ordinates research, and should be contacted to obtain approval for any project. Research is an important aid for good management and it is important that local staff are kept fully informed of findings as a project progresses.

Scientific research into the ecology of the inter-tidal and sub-tidal zone will be encouraged. The inter-tidal zone is the main feeding area for waders but at present little is known about it. Other areas where research is needed are on the impact of black swans on the other species and the habitat, and into means of conserving the endangered plant species present. Within the farm park the most urgent research required is into the impact of grazing on the manuka moorlands.

Research proposals for the nature reserve will not necessarily be approved because some forms of research may be appropriately carried out on Puponga Farm, parts of the farm park or elsewhere.

5.1.1

Research into ecosystems, public use patterns and impacts will be encouraged where it will provide increased knowledge and lead to better management of the area.

5.1.2

Research programmes must be approved by the Regional Conservator before work can begin.

5.1.3

All research workers must advise the Regional Conservator of their progress and findings and provide a copy of any paper research or report.

5.1.4

Proposals for research on the nature reserve will not be approved unless they involve minimal disturbance and cannot be undertaken elsewhere.

5.2 External requests

One function of the conservancy advisory scientist is to co-ordinate research information within the conservancy and a second is to provide advice and information as required. For this reason the person is a prime contact for collection and dissemination of scientific information within the conservancy and is thus best able to provide information.

5.2.1

Requests for scientific information on the area should be directed to the conservancy advisory scientist, Nelson.

5.3 Habitat and species monitoring

Because the nature reserve was established to protect the bird life this is the most important element to monitor. It is also important to monitor the ecosystem that it depends upon.

The area of land on the nature reserve in natural vegetation is too small to warrant intensive monitoring without specific objectives. The vast inter-tidal zone however, requires careful monitoring. Where a requirement is identified then well recognised repeatable methods should be used.

The easiest way to do this is through photopoints. The inter-tidal zone is well covered by photopoints. The vegetation of the nature reserve is also monitored by photopoints although this coverage should be extended.

Both the nature reserve and the biological areas of the farm park contain several rare and threatened species, including pingao, sand spurge, sand pimelea, *Powelliphanta* land snails and *Carmichaelia fieldii* and these populations should be specifically monitored.

5.3.1

Ecosystems within the area will be surveyed using a standardised methodology as required.

5.3.2

Bird counts on the nature reserve are carried out by the Nelson branch of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand and will continue to be supported.

5.3.3

Photopoints on the nature reserve will be maintained and further points established to give a complete coverage of the farm park.

5.3.4

Populations of rare and threatened species will be located and monitored.

5.4 Visitor surveys

Visitor numbers should be monitored to provide information for targeting publicity and maintenance or establishment of new facilities. This can be done at minimal cost through self-registration facilities.

5.4.1

Visitor self-registration facilities will be established at all entry points.

5.5. Databases

Sound reliable information is essential for good management. Lists and files provide a static record but well maintained databases provide a dynamic up-to-date register which is readily accessible. DOC is currently establishing its information systems and data from these reserves will be incorporated as they are established.

5.5.1

Information on visitor numbers and impacts, archaeological finds, species distributions (especially rare plants and animals) will be provided to update and maintain the appropriate conservancy database.

ESTATE USE

6. PUBLIC USE

6.1 Public access

6.1.1 General access

The public has free access to all parts of the farm park except those used for private purposes (e.g. farm manager's house) and the area is rarely closed for any purpose although visitors may be advised to avoid specific areas at critical times such as during lambing. Walking and picnicking are the major recreational activities on the farm park, and the beaches and landscape provide many opportunities for exploration and enjoyment. There are no roads, and only a few poor quality off-road vehicle tracks give access within the farms. As a result the farm is closed to public vehicles beyond the road-end car parks.

The bare sands, frequent strong winds and few opportunities to find water or shelter make the nature reserve an inhospitable place. The nature reserve classification specifically excludes public access except under permit but this is not normally refused and the public is given ready access on foot to the lower 4km of the outer beach and a matching 2.4 km on the inner beach. Because of the tricky nature of the crossing to the outer beach and treacherous soft sands and muds on the inner beach Off-road vehicle access is restricted, mainly to a tourist operator and anglers.

6.1.1.1

Free public access on foot will be encouraged within the farm park, but restrictions may be required from time to time, for farm management purposes.

6.1.1.2

Where restrictions on access are applied, notices will be placed in local newspapers and displayed at car parks.

6.1.1.3

Signs, brochures, tracks, and stiles will be provided to invite and facilitate public access and indicate restrictions or appropriate routes.

6.1.1.4

Public foot access to the nature reserve will be confined to the lower 4 km of the outer beach and a matching 2.4 km on the inner beach except for fishing when it is limited at Mullet Creek.

6.1.2 Group usage

Large groups such as school parties or large sports events are encouraged to make use of the farm park. Because they may place undue stress on facilities, disrupt other users, or cause locally severe habitat impact, special permission will be required from the Regional Conservator. Special conditions apply to access to the nature reserve because of its status and only activities which reinforce the value of the flora and fauna and have a low impact will be encouraged. Armed forces use of the area will be confined to the farm park and then governed by the DOC policy on armed forces use of conservation lands.

6.1.2.1

Major activities such as large sports events, likely to disrupt other users of the farm park, will be subject to a permit from the Regional Conservator.

6.1.3 Vehicles

As the properties are in an isolated area almost all visitors arrive by car. Car parks are provided on or at the edge of the farms with general vehicular access to these points only. At parking areas signs will inform the public that cycles, motor cycles and cars are not to proceed beyond those points.

6.1.3.1

Private motorcycles and cars will be confined to designated parking areas unless authorised, by permit, to use farm tracks or beaches.

6.1.3.2

Vehicle barriers will be constructed where warranted.

6.1.4 Off-road vehicles

In the interests of protecting the nature reserve vehicle numbers will be kept to a minimum and their range restricted to minimise disturbance to birds. Departmental vehicles are also restricted in the interests of the environment. Tourist operators have a long established business on the nature reserve which the public would like to see continued. Anglers also have traditionally used off-road vehicles to reach the best fishing spots along the outer beach.

The Department accepts no responsibility for any vehicle trapped or immobilised on the nature reserve. The operator or owner is responsible for the safety of the occupants and the prompt removal of the vehicle by approved means.

Off-road vehicles will not be permitted for recreational use within the farm park because of the potential for disturbance to stock, the fragile nature of the dune soils, which cover much of the farmed area and the limited extent of suitable farm track.

6.1.4.1

Off-road vehicular traffic or bicycle use will generally not be permitted within the farm park or on the nature reserve except for fishing.

6.1.4.2

Anglers' off-road vehicles will be confined to the crossing road and outer, northern beach and may not proceed beyond Mullet Creek on the nature reserve. Tourist concession vehicles may progress to the lighthouse.

6.1.4.3

Official vehicles may use the inner southern beach only as far as the beginning of the saltmarsh at Stockyard Point and must not be driven on the saltmarsh.

6.1.5 Boats

The inter-tidal area of the nature reserve is the most important feeding area for the wading birds. The waters are very shallow for several kilometres off shore especially at high tide. Because the nature reserve extends to the low water mark landing of boats is restricted at all times to protect the bird life. Elsewhere there is limited scope for boating activities.

6.1.5.1

Landing of boats on the nature reserve is permitted to the limits of public foot access in an emergency.

6.1.5.2

Conservation staff will use Harbours Act warrants to aid in policing boat use near the nature reserve.

6.1.6 Aircraft (including microlights)

Low level aircraft flights over Farewell Spit Nature Reserve cause considerable disturbance to bird life and all flights are restricted to altitudes above 906 m over the area (Map 2, appended).

Servicing flights for the lighthouse are excluded from altitude restrictions but confined to a specific corridor. Helicopters may be required for official purposes such as wild animal control operations, weed control and in an emergency. In such cases flights must be approved by the Regional Conservator. Airstrips on the farm park have dangerous cross-winds and may be stocked and so are closed to the public. Local aero clubs will be informed that use of the airstrips on the farm park is restricted to authorised Departmental use only.

6.1.6.1

The Department will liaise with the RNZAF and the Ministry of Transport to ensure that low level flights are not undertaken by Service or Civil aircraft, and that minimum altitude restrictions are observed.

6.1.6.2

No aircraft may be landed on, or hover closely above, any beach or part of Farewell Spit Nature Reserve except in an emergency, or for management purposes.

6.1.6.3

The use of the airstrips on the farm park is restricted to commercial aerial topdressing aircraft and to other authorised Departmental use.

6.2 Domestic animals

Dogs will be allowed within the farm park for essential farm management purposes, under the control of farm staff. Other domestic animals would compromise general farming activities and pose a serious threat to wildlife in the nature reserve, and are prohibited. These restrictions will be displayed at the car parks and in interpretation material.

6.2.1

Dogs will be prohibited within the farm park, except for management purposes and totally prohibited within the nature reserve.

6.3 Picnicking

The area has a high potential for picnicking and, with the exception of areas temporarily closed for farm management purposes, most of the area is available. All visitors should be given an opportunity to make the most of easily accessible features within the farm park, particularly close to road ends.

Specific sites may be set aside for this purpose however climatic conditions make it appropriate that some facilities, including shelter, should be provided, subject to a development plan.

In order to increase public awareness of the problems of pollution, and to promote a code of minimal impact the public will be encouraged to take a responsible attitude to preserving the rural landscape.

6.3.1

The public will be encouraged to bring the least amount of potential rubbish into the farm park and to take all their rubbish with them when they leave.

6.3.2

Formal picnic sites will be signposted.

6.3.3

Planting for shelter may be undertaken at specific picnic sites to enhance the site, under a development plan.

6.3.4

Amenities for disabled persons will be provided at high use sites.

6.4 Accommodation

Several farm houses became surplus with the establishment of the Department of Conservation. The shearers' quarters at Cape Farewell farm and the old homestead on Puponga Farm are used from time to time by staff working in the area, but are available to the public on request to the farm manager.

6.4.1

Charges for house use will be in keeping with conservancy fees and consistent with recovering basic maintenance costs.

6.4.2

Where appropriate, accommodation will be made available for the public in existing buildings.

6.4.3

All accommodation will be regularly inspected by field staff and maintained to a comfortable and hygienic standard.

6.5 Camping

At present there is a low demand for camping and because services such as water and power are limited, camping is not favoured. The woolshed site at Cape Farewell Farm could be developed in future when the oil rig is removed. On Wharariki Farm there are no suitable flat areas and the fire risk in places is high. On Puponga Farm, the road end lies at the farm management centre close to the homestead and woolshed, but other sites may be suitable in the future. Well serviced camping grounds are available within 15 kilometres and any development of camping sites at the farm park could be viewed unfavourably by the local operators of commercial camp grounds. This situation may need to be reviewed in future.

6.5.1

Signs indicating that casual camping is prohibited will be displayed at both car parks and warnings placed in interpretative material.

6.5.2

Information indicating the nearest camping sites will be displayed at the car parks.

6.5.3

If the situation demands, camping sites may be provided at suitable localities in future.

6.6 Horse trekking

Horses are part of the experience of a farm park and should accordingly be permitted in particular localities. Horse riding will not be permitted on the nature reserve. It may be permitted on the farm park where there is no conflict with other users, or where damage to vegetation on erodible sand country is unlikely.

6.6.1

Horse riding will be permitted on defined routes on the farm park only, and at times of the year which do not conflict with farming or other activities.

6.7 Other recreational activities

6.7.1

Other sporting activities on the farm park will be examined on their merits by the Regional Conservator and may be approved where impact can be shown to be slight. The nature reserve will remain closed to all sporting activities except fishing.

7. RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developments must be carefully planned so as to be in harmony with conservation values and farming practices. Any new developments must be submitted as project proposals under the Conservancy Business Plan. Major developments will require full public consultation as recommended by the conservation board.

The Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy has introduced planning policies for signs and other recreational facilities. These apply to all departmental estates in the conservancy.

7.0.1

All developments will be subject to a conservancy recreation plan and conform with its design specifications.

7.0.2

In general, all new buildings, facilities and signs, etc. will be professionally designed to reflect their locations.

7.1 Tracks

The whole area has a tremendous potential for short easy walks which are highly attractive to day trippers, some of the main users of the farm park. The coastline in the vicinity of the farm park is particularly spectacular. Possibilities include a coastal route linking both Puponga and Wharariki, and Wharariki with the south, and a loop track to link Green Hills Stream with the western boundary.

7.1.1

The existing system of tracks will be extended to reach more of the main features and to permit a range of user groups to experience the varied landscape.

7.1.2

Forming, upgrading and maintenance of walks, tracks and routes will be carried out in accordance with approved development plans.

7.2 Signs

Good signs form the basis of communication with users of a site or facility and are an integral part of the visitor experience. As such they must be carefully designed and placed.

7.2.1

All signs will conform to the design, materials, colour, text and size recommended in the signs policy.

7.2.2

All track signs will show the approximate route time (in one direction only).

7.3. Bridges

There are few bridges within the farm park and a limited need for them but when required they should be of a high standard. As a result, plans of bridges should be prepared and approved by the conservancy engineer.

7.3.1

Construction of walk bridges will be continued to a level consistent with the objects of management of the farm park and the safety of users.

7.3.2

Bridges and structures must be constructed and maintained to approved engineering design.

7.4. Roads

The public has limited road access throughout the area but there are a few Off-road vehicle tracks occasionally used in farm management. Farm roading will require special constraints to retain landscape values because, although the service roads within the farm park are not available for public vehicles, they are frequently used as walking routes.

7.4.1

Service roads and tracks will be carefully sited and maintained to minimise landscape and site impact.

7.4.2

All roads will be available for public foot access unless otherwise indicated. Exceptions will be authorised by the Regional Conservator, in consultation with the farm manager.

7.5 Facilities and services

Toilets are provided at Puponga Farm Park and at the Farewell Spit lighthouse and facilities such as information boards, signposts, tables, and toilets have been provided at all high use sites. There is a low demand for further facilities at present but future expansions should be well planned within a conservancy recreation strategy.

7.5.0.1

A development plan for each site will be prepared for approval by the Regional Conservator before construction proceeds.

7.5.1 Launching ramps and jetties

Better sites with suitable facilities for boat launching are available at Puponga Inlet just beyond the farm park. Furthermore, boat use near the nature reserve is to be discouraged in the interests of protecting bird life.

7.5.1.1

Launching ramps and jetties will not be provided.

7.5.2 Rubbish

Offal pits and places to dispose of carcasses are an essential part of farm management. The open farm environment provides little scope for hiding waste disposal and even the smallest tips are likely to be obvious to the visiting public. Rubbish tips are frequently sited close to waterways in "waste" land which can lead to pollution of the waterway, but this should be avoided.

The farm park is visited by large numbers of people and as such should be maintained to a high standard. In order to reinforce a public need to keep the environment tidy, surplus or malfunctioning equipment should not be abandoned but rather removed and stored or disposed of in an appropriate way.

Beach debris is a major problem on the nature reserve with plastic waste, old nets, and fish baskets abandoned from fishing boats as the most common items. Some items pose a threat to birdlife and others are brightly coloured and obtrude into the environment. They most commonly drift and collect towards the base of the inner beach, are readily visible and easily collected.

7.5.2.1

Within the farm park, rubbish will be collected and/or disposed of in a manner which affects the natural environment in the least possible way.

7.5.2.2

Particular attention will be paid to the siting of waste disposal facilities to ensure the effects of discharge on natural waters is minimal.

7.5.2.3

Plastic debris will be collected from the beaches of the nature reserve as other activities permit.

7.5.2.4

The farm manager will keep a tidy farm.

8. HARVESTING

The Reserves and Conservation Acts are very specific about removal of plants. No produce may be removed from the farm park or nature reserve without a permit, normally issued by the Regional Conservator.

8.1 Hunting

There are low numbers of game mammals and limited areas suitable for hunting. To ensure minimum disruption to farming activities within the farm park, control will be undertaken by staff, but in areas indistinguishable from the forest park, permit issue will recognise this.

Possoms are a minor problem but of commercial interest. Trapping or poisoning operations should not interfere with farm operations and will be encouraged as a control measure within the farm park.

8.1.1

Signs indicating that hunting is prohibited within the farm park and nature reserve will be displayed at both car parks and in interpretation material.

8.1.2

Public hunting will be permitted in areas contiguous with North-west Nelson Forest Park.

8.1.3

Possum trapping, under permit from the Regional Conservator, will be encouraged within the farm park.

8.2 Game bird shooting

Paradise shelducks and mallard ducks are present, but quail and pheasant are absent from the farm park. All shooting is prohibited within the nature reserve and for the protection of other bird life, especially sea birds, shooting is not desirable within the farm park. In addition game bird shooting is normally assisted by retrieving dogs and these can interfere with farm management. Large numbers of paradise shelducks congregate for moulting and these birds destroy and foul pasture. In these instances some control may be required and game bird shooting may be permitted under carefully controlled conditions.

8.2.1

Duck and game bird shooting may be permitted within the farm park, as dictated by farm management.

8.3 Recreational fishing

There has been a long standing interest in fishing on the northern beach of the nature reserve and provided bird life is not unduly disturbed it can continue. Traditionally off-road vehicles have been used to reach fishing spots on the outer beach and this special exception should continue (see §6.1.5). Set netting is prohibited because of the risk to bird life. Fishing is permitted from all parts of the coastline of the farm park.

8.3.1

Rod or line fishing is permitted from all parts of the farm park, but will only be permitted from the northern or outer beach of the nature reserve, between Fossil Point and Mullet Creek.

8.3.2

Set net fishing is prohibited within the nature reserve.

8.4 Commercial fishing

Commercial fishing is likely to have a substantial impact on the bird life of the nature reserve through its impact on the food chains and substrate. The closed nature of the reserve means that the inter-tidal zone is protected but some protection may be required for the sub-tidal zone. The farm park contains no suitable areas for whitebaiting or eeling.

8.4.1

Commercial fishing is prohibited within the nature reserve and on the farm park.

8.4.2

Close liaison will be maintained with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to minimise the impact of commercial fisheries in the sub-tidal zone on the nature reserve.

8.5 Honey

Bees may form an integral part of farm management through pollination of clovers and other forage crops, and will be permitted under licence. Access to the nature reserve, resultant site disturbance and limited honey availability mean that the nature reserve is closed to the placement of hives.

8.5.1

Bee keeping will be permitted on the farm park, under licence.

8.6 Eelgrass harvesting

After major storms large drifts of eelgrass occur on the inner beaches of the nature reserve and are sought after for garden fertiliser. There are ample areas outside the nature reserve for collection and since it interferes with natural processes it is not desirable. Collection is permitted on the small area of affected shore at the farm park.

8.6.1

The taking of eelgrass from the nature reserve is prohibited except along the farm park shore, and then only for home garden use.

8.7 Grazing

At present the farm park is managed under agreement with Landcorp, but normal conditions for leasing of DOC lands apply. These will need to be reinforced if Landcorp discontinues the land management agreement. Any subsequent lease or licence would require a careful choice of tenant and recognition of the primary protective and recreational functions of the current management. Any agreement should continue current management practices and maintain the same standards as set out in the current farm management agreement. This will be particularly important because one of the main functions of the farm park is to protect the nature reserve from stray stock.

8.7.1

Management will ensure that grazing does not adversely affect the soil conservation and water regulating capacity of the vegetation.

8.7.2

All licences and permits will allow for walking access for the public across the licence or permit areas.

8.7.3

An assessment of the boundary fencing and its condition will be undertaken before a grazing licence is issued.

8.7.4

The permittees must ensure that stock does not stray outside the permit area.

8.8 Fossicking

The area does not present a major attraction to fossickers but there are old coal mines and mineral deposits present as well as considerable fossil deposits at Fossil Point. Rock hounding or fossicking for profit, or such as would amount to prospecting or mining, is subject to a licence under the Mining Act but some recreational fossicking will be permitted. Suitable signs will be erected to notify the public.

8.8.1

Visitors are allowed to collect rock souvenirs (less than five kilograms) by hand under permit from the Regional Conservator.

8.8.2

Collection of fossils is prohibited.

8.9 Mining

The area has been subject to coal mining, oil drilling and prospecting in the past and an abandoned oil rig stands on Cape Farewell Farm. Sites for mining may be approved within the farm park, but mining on the nature reserve will be opposed because of high natural values. Similarly, construction of gas or oil pipelines, storage plant or the use of any part of the nature reserve for any public utility will be opposed.

The vulnerability of the inter-tidal feeding area is such that any form of disturbance or sedimentation may severely affect bird populations. Each application will be considered in terms of the current mining policy, but mining and prospecting are basically incompatible with reserve values.

8.9.1

In view of the likely disturbance to bird life and disruption of natural processes or ecosystems, exploitation or development on Farewell Spit Nature Reserve will be opposed.

8.9.2

Any approved prospecting or mining licence, or sand extraction will fully conform with DOC mining policy.

8.9.3

All areas being prospected or mined will be regularly monitored to ensure work is in accordance with the approved plan of operations.

8.10 Maori rights

The farm park contains very limited traditional Maori resources but adequate material may be available from the adjacent North-west Nelson Forest Park. Occasional whale strandings occur (see §2.11) on Farewell Spit Nature Reserve. It also contains limited amounts of the rare pingao and these should be fully protected.

8.10.1

Generally, requests for traditional Maori plant material or birdlife from Farewell Spit Nature Reserve will be discouraged in favour of supply from the adjacent farm or forest park.

8.10.2

Where harvesting is approved it will be carried out with the approval of and in conjunction with the tangata whenua.

9. LEASES AND LICENCES

9.1 Public works

Two lighthouses are present, one at Pillar Point on the farm park and the other near the end of Farewell Spit in the nature reserve. Since the Spit lies at the top of the South Island and near the entrance to Cook Strait these services are an essential part of the maritime transport network.

Ministry of Transport will be given continued access to and use of Pillar Point and the Farewell Spit lighthouse sites, but the navigational aids may impose some constraints on the reserve and its management to ensure they remain effective.

The demand for other public services is at present minimal since the area is relatively remote. Nevertheless any intrusions should be in harmony with the landscape.

9.1.1

Essential lighthouse servicing requirements will be approved, provided disturbance is minimal.

9.1.2

Access to navigational aids will be permitted where required.

9.1.3

Management will ensure that the seaward arc of visibility is maintained at the lighthouses.

9.1.4

Whenever possible, power, water and telephone lines will be sited in such a manner as not to detract from the aesthetic values or damage the ecological values of the farm park or nature reserve.

9.2 Concessions

The Farewell Spit tourist trip is well known and is popular with visitors. Tourist trips to the lighthouse via Farewell Spit Nature Reserve are conducted by Collingwood Safari Tours Ltd, under a concession. Permits are issued only for the authorised route, via the crossing road at the western margin of the nature reserve and the northern beach. If, in the opinion of the Regional Conservator, the intensity of the operation of tourist trips appears to be incompatible with the management objectives of the nature reserve, their frequency will be reviewed.

The tourist trips to the lighthouse have a minimal impact on the bird life and the visitors are confined to a narrow route with few points of contact with the reserve. Further concessions of a specialised nature may be approved where the impact is small and the public is given the opportunity to view the unique flora and fauna.

Within the farm park there is a wider scope for concessions based upon the flora and fauna and the spectacular landscapes. Commercial operations will be considered where such operations meet the following conditions:

- (i) they provide for improved public use or enjoyment and do not restrict the general public;
- (ii) they are consistent with the protection being undertaken; and
- (iii) they are capable of being integrated with the farming activities.

9.2.1

The tourist trip concession may continue, provided management of the nature reserve is not compromised.

9.2.2

Other concessions within the nature reserve will be permitted where they can be shown to have a similar low impact.

9.2.3

Prospective concessions for the farm park will be examined in line with the current Departmental concessions policy and with the objectives and policies of the Management Plan.

9.2.4

Any new or likely concessions will be publicly advertised both for interest and public comment.

9.2.5

Concessionaires will be charged for concessions in a manner consistent with the departmental concessions policy

ADVOCACY

10.1 Public Education

The area of Triangle Flat at Puponga Farm contains several temporary wetlands which attract waders from the nature reserve at high tide during and following adverse weather and allow the public an opportunity to see the birds for which the nature reserve is known. The birdlife could be encouraged to remain for greater periods if an artificial wetland was created. With suitable screening and hides it could provide a permanent wader population for public viewing.

10.1.1

Investigations will be undertaken to establish an artificial wetland with viewing hides on Puponga farm as a public attraction.

10.2 Publicity

Recreational and educational visits to the farm park can be made more stimulating and interesting by the provision of interpretative material. The material will also improve the public understanding of the departmental aims such as fostering the importance of protection and preservation of flora and fauna and the maintenance of soil, water and conservation values.

The information will be disseminated from the Takaka Office, from displays on site and from other offices as appropriate. Information about the area should also be disseminated widely as part of the regional promotion of conservation. In particular local schools will be advised of the features of the farm park.

10.2.1

Information and brochures containing maps for intended recreational users, will be produced and regularly updated.

10.2.2

On-site displays and information pamphlets will be prepared.

10.2.3

Visitor safety will be promoted by education, including provision of information about any potential problems or dangers in the farm park and nature reserve.

10.3 Interpretation programmes

Public awareness of the values of the area are most readily fostered at holiday times when there are many visitors in the district.

10.3.1

Educational use of the farm park by the public will be promoted through talks, summer programmes, self-interpretation walks, displays and brochures.

10.3.2

Annual interpretation programmes will continue to be prepared for the public.

10.4 Liaison with outside organisations and adjacent land owners

The area should not be managed as if it were an island but outside influences should be monitored and, where possible, compatible uses should be fostered on adjacent lands and waters. The major means of achieving this is through submissions and objections to changes in district and regional planning schemes.

Major activities which may influence water quality are aquaculture or extensive coastal developments.

10.4.1

Adjoining landowners and local authorities will be consulted to ensure that conflicts in adjoining land and water use which compromise nature reserve values are minimised.

10.4.2

Negotiations will be initiated to ensure that suitable standards are incorporated in district schemes, landscape covenants agreed with landowners or compatible policies placed in management plans.

MISCELLANEOUS

11.1 Budgeting cycle

11.1.1

Estimates will be prepared for all operations on an annual basis through the business plan procedures.

11.2 Reports

11.2.1

A three monthly report covering activities in the farm park will be prepared for submission at quarterly Board meetings.

11.2.2

Copies of the reports may be available to interested clubs, bodies and organisations at a reasonable cost.

11.3 Advisory bodies

Management of the farm park is through a liaison committee of farm managers and DOC staff. Oversight of activities in the nature reserve is also carried out by the Nelson Conservation Board.

Informal local committees may be formed to advise on particular aspects of management such as scientific aspects of management of the nature reserve. A liaison group comprising local conservation groups has also been formed for the conservancy for informal exchange of ideas on various issues.

11.3.1

The farm management liaison committee will hold meetings at least twice a year.

11.4 Maori consultation

The national framework for Maori representation and development is undergoing change, with the devolution of responsibility for many activities directly concerning Maori from the Ministry of Maori Affairs to Iwi authorities. It will be important to ensure that management activities which impact on Maori concerns and interests are fully discussed with relevant kaumatua and with Iwi authorities once they are established.

At the present time the Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy has a contract arrangement for liaison and advice on Maori issues. Contact has also been established with the marae committee in Golden Bay.

11.4.1

Formal consultation on reviews of this plan will be carried out with the departmental Maori liaison officer and/or the relevant Iwi authority.

11.4.2

The local kaumatua will be consulted on a regular basis, particularly where major developments are considered.

11.5 Bylaws

The area has few major activities requiring specific regulation outside the powers of the respective acts.

11.5.1

Bylaws will not be established for the area.

11.6 Honorary Rangers

Honorary rangers form a useful corps to facilitate DoC activities, assist with patrols and monitor public behaviour in the area. The value of such a corps can be enhanced by regular meetings and contacts.

11.6.1

Steps will be taken to warrant suitable members of the public to assist in monitoring of the farm park and nature reserve and other activities.

11.6.2

There will be annual meetings of honorary rangers supplemented by regular informal contact with departmental staff.

11.7 Plan review and term

The plan will run for a normal term but a revision may be contemplated with changes in administration, management or gross area. Any such amendment must be notified to the public through the local press.

11.7.1

This management plan will operate for a 10 year period from 1/1/91 to 31/12/2001.

11.7.2

The plan may be reviewed at any time that substantial changes in management suggests this is warranted.

11.7.3

Minor amendments to this plan may be authorised by the Director General in terms of the Minister's delegated authority.

APPENDIX A

EXTRACT FROM THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE ESPECIALLY AS WATERFOWL HABITAT

The Contracting Parties,

Recognizing the interdependence of man and his environment;

Considering the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands as regulators of water regimes as habitats supporting a characteristic flora and fauna, especially waterfowl;

Being convinced that wetlands constitute a resource of great economic, cultural, scientific and recreational value, the loss of which would be irreparable;

Desiring to stem the progressive encroachment on and loss of wetlands now and in the future;

Recognizing that waterfowl in their seasonal migrations may transcend frontiers and so should be regarded as an international resource;

Being confident that the conservation of wetlands and their flora and fauna can be ensured by combining far-sighted national policies with co-ordinated international action and protection;

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

- 1 For the purpose of this Convention wetlands are areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres.
- 2 For the purpose of this Convention waterfowl are birds ecologically dependent on wetlands.

ARTICLE 2

- 1 Each Contracting Party shall designate suitable wetlands within its territory for inclusion in a List of Wetlands of International Importance, hereinafter referred to as "the List" which is maintained by the bureau established under Article B. The boundaries of each wetland shall be precisely described and also delimited on a map and they may incorporate riparian river and coastal zones adjacent to the wetlands, and islands or bodies of marine water deeper than six metres at low tide

lying within the wetlands, especially where these have importance as waterfowl habitat.

- 2 Wetlands should be selected for the List on account of their international significance in terms of ecology, botany, zoology, limnology or hydrology. In the first instance wetlands of international importance to waterfowl at any season should be included.
- 3 The inclusion of a wetland in the List does not prejudice the exclusive sovereign rights of the Contracting Party in whose territory the wetland is situated.
- 4 Each Contracting Party shall designate at least one wetland to be included in the List when signing this Convention or when depositing its instrument of ratification or accession, as provided in Article 9.
- 5 Any Contracting Party shall have the right to add to the List further wetlands situated within its territory, to extend the boundaries of those wetlands already included by it in the List, or, because of its urgent national interests, to delete or restrict the boundaries of wetlands already included by it in the List and shall, at the earliest possible time, inform the organization or government responsible for the continuing bureau duties specified in Article 8 of any such changes.
- 6 Each Contracting Party shall consider its international responsibilities for the conservation, management and wise use of migratory stocks of waterfowl, both when designating entries for the List and when exercising its right to change entries in the List relating to wetlands within its territory.

ARTICLE 3

- 1 The Contracting parties shall formulate and implement their planning so as to promote the conservation of the wetlands included in the List, and as far as possible the wise use of wetlands in their territory.
- 2 Each Contracting Party shall arrange to be informed at the earliest possible time if the ecological character of any wetland in its territory and included in the List has changed, is changing or is likely to change as the result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference. Information on such changes shall be passed without delay to the organisation or government responsible for the continuing bureau duties specified in Article 6.

ARTICLE 4

- 1 Each Contracting Party shall promote the conservation of wetlands and waterfowl by establishing nature reserves on wetlands, whether they are included in the List or not, and provide adequately for their wardening.

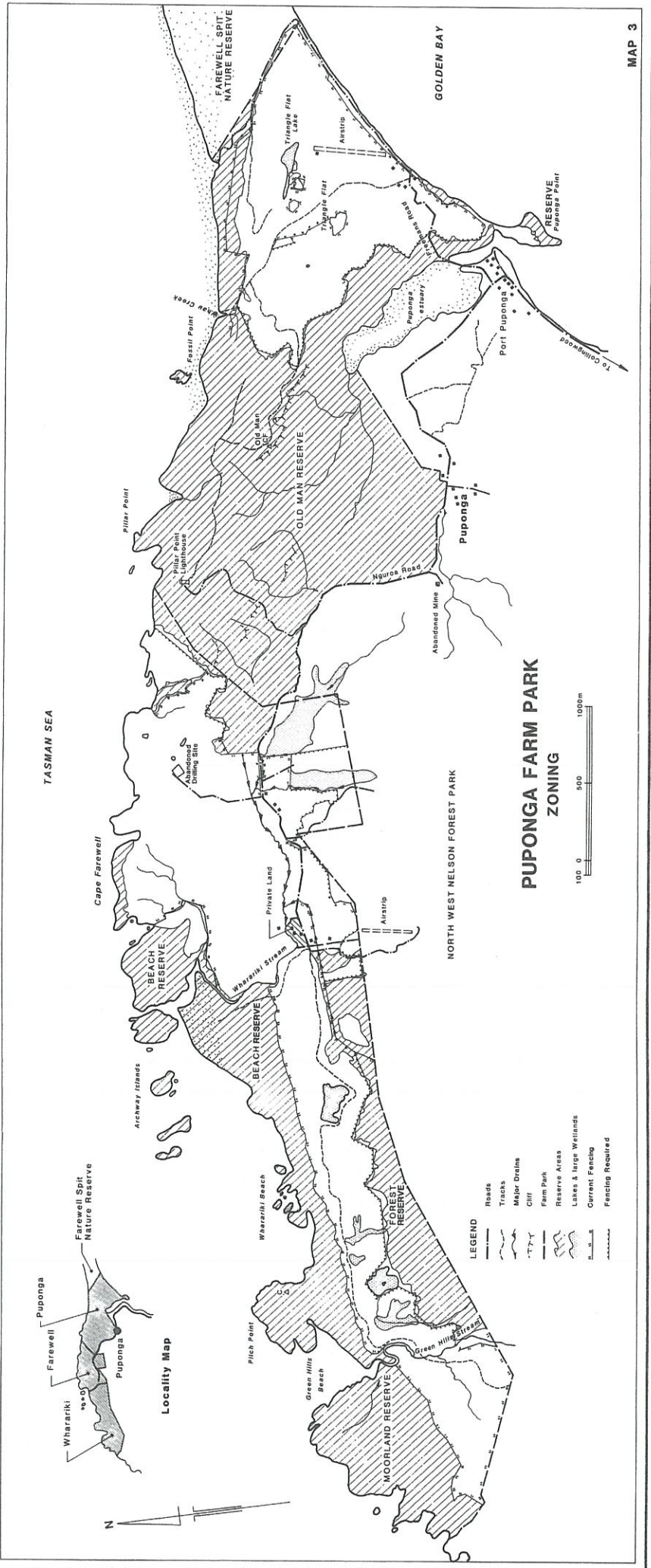
- 2 Where a Contracting Party in its urgent national interest, deletes or restricts the boundaries of a wetland included in the List, it should as far as possible compensate for any loss of wetland resources, and in particular it should create additional nature reserves for waterfowl and for the protection, either in the same area or elsewhere, of an adequate portion of the original habitat.
- 3 The Contracting Parties shall encourage research and the exchange of data and publications regarding wetlands and their flora and fauna.
- 4 The Contracting Parties shall endeavour through management to increase waterfowl populations on appropriate wetlands.
- 5 The Contracting Parties shall promote the training of personnel competent in the fields of wetland research, management and wardening.

ARTICLE 5

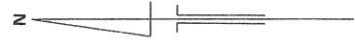
The Contracting Parties shall consult with each other about implementing obligations arising from the Convention especially in the case of a wetland extending over the territories of more than one Contracting Party or where a water system is shared by Contracting Parties. They shall at the same time endeavour to co-ordinate and support present and future policies and regulations concerning the conservation of wetlands and their flora and fauna.

ARTICLE 6




- 1 The Contracting Parties shall, as the necessity arises, convene Conferences on the Conservation of Wetlands and Waterfowl.
- 2 These Conferences shall have an advisory character and shall be competent inter alia :
 - (a) to discuss the implementation of this Convention;
 - (b) to discuss additions to and changes in the List;
 - (c) to consider information regarding changes in the ecological character of wetlands included in the List provided in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 3;
 - (d) to make general or specific recommendations to the Contracting Parties regarding the conservation, management and wise use of wetlands and their flora and fauna;
 - (e) to request relevant international bodies to prepare reports and statistics on matters which are essentially international in character affecting wetlands.
- 3 The Contracting Parties shall ensure that those responsible at all levels for wetlands management shall be informed of, and take into consideration, recommendations of such Conferences concerning the conservation, management and wise use of wetlands and their flora and fauna.

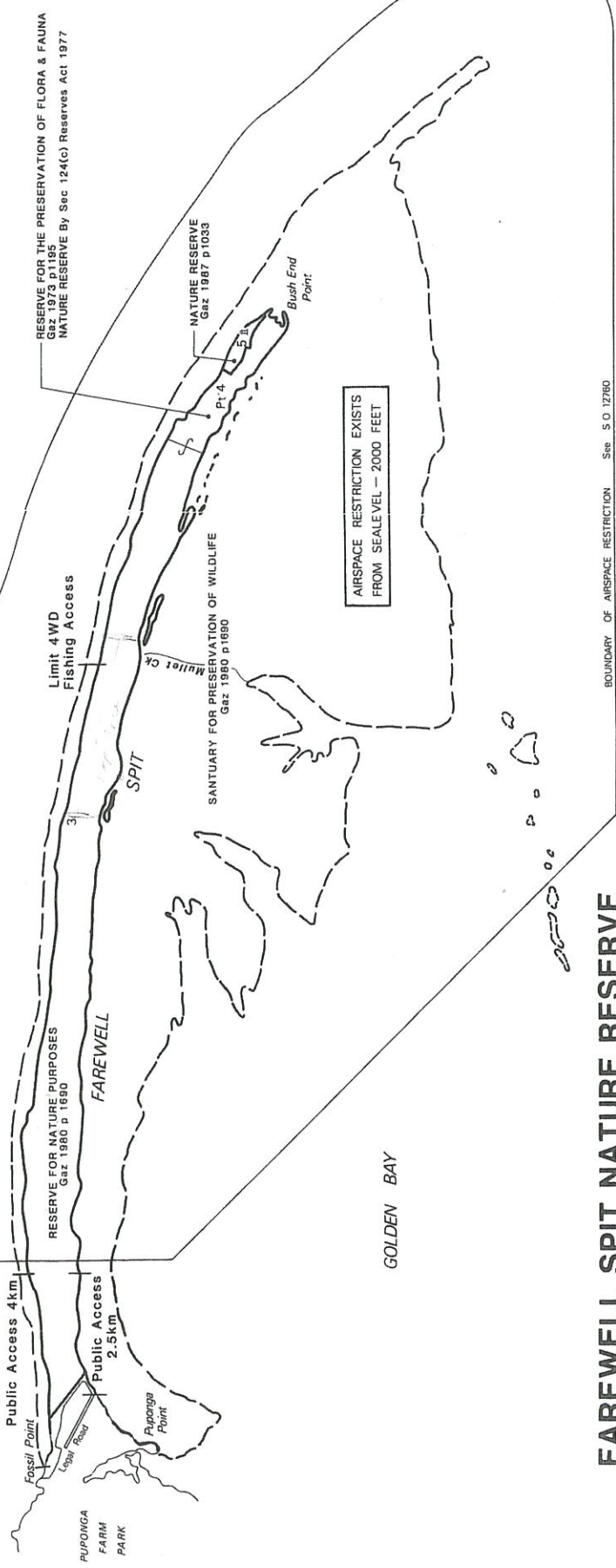


TASMAN SEA



LEGEND

-  Total Area of Reserve
-  Area of Farewell Spit
-  Intertidal Area



FAREWELL SPIT NATURE RESERVE ZONING



