

retaining runoff), and carbon storage. Almost 20 hectares of land at Mākara Cemetery are included in Permanent Carbon Sink Initiative covenants (which will soon be transferred to the reformed Emissions Trading Scheme) and there is potential for more.

A sustainability audit of the cemetery operations will help understand the impacts of current practices and the potential for improvement. It will also help inform decisions made during the master planning of the new cemetery area (see 3.1.2.3) and what would be involved in achieving a zero-carbon cemetery operation to contribute to the Council's aspirations under *Te Atakura First to Zero, Wellington's Blueprint for a Zero Carbon Capital*.



4. Ngā kaupapa here me ngā Mahi Urupā-motuhake

Cemetery-specific policies and actions

4.1 Tawa Cemetery

4.1.1 Landscape character and amenity planting

1. Assess and enhance Tawa Cemetery as a heritage landscape, as guided by the proposed Tawa Cemetery heritage conservation plan (see 4.1.2 action (b)).
2. Maintain vegetation to prevent damaging the gravesites.

Action

- a) Investigate the stability of the back (western) boundary bank and undertake remedial action if necessary.

Explanation

Tawa Cemetery is a small and simple cemetery landscape. It sits several metres above Main Road, with a pleasant outlook across Linden to the hills beyond. The gently sloping site is mainly in grass, except for a small group of trees near the centre and a band of vegetation on the back boundary. The headstones reveal a range of styles from the very simple to more elaborate, particularly the prominent Thomas Earp memorial, which is a dominant visual feature. Much of the original layout of graves is evident but the vegetation on the back boundary has overgrown and is obscuring the back row of graves. The entrance is well marked with a lychgate. Maintenance currently comprises regular mowing/weed eating of the lawn areas. The overgrowth on the back boundary needs to be assessed and removed or trimmed to protect the graves from further damage, as guided by the proposed heritage conservation plan (see below). Regular maintenance should include the removal of self-sown tree and shrub seedlings from the graves to avoid future regrowth and root damage.

4.1.2 Heritage recognition and protection

1. Protect, manage and promote Tawa Cemetery as an historic reserve.

Actions

- a) Consider scheduling the Tawa Cemetery as a heritage area in the district plan.
- b) Prepare a Tawa Cemetery heritage conservation plan, including an archaeological assessment and management plan, and a long-term maintenance plan with associated guidance on best practice maintenance of the graves and the vegetation.
- c) Support the Tawa Historical Society in researching Tawa Cemetery records and add to the cemeteries' database whatever verified burial information about the cemetery is available.

Explanation

Tawa Cemetery is an archaeological site under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014, as it was established before 1900. The land was gifted by Edward Gibbon Wakefield, a prominent figure in the early colonial history of Wellington. The cemetery also tells a story about the early colonial settlement of Tawa, its people and its subsequent development (see Appendix III for a brief historical summary).

Tawa Cemetery is classified as an historic reserve under the Reserves Act to protect and preserve it in perpetuity. District plan scheduling is subject to a separate decision-making process that would require further research, assessment against the heritage criteria and thresholds. Given it would require a district plan change, it will be considered at the same time as possible scheduling of Karori Cemetery.

A conservation plan for the cemetery is proposed to guide future management of the heritage. It will involve assessing the significance and condition of the heritage features and landscape, and set out future maintenance requirements. The conservation plan will guide prioritising future maintenance and repair work. In addition, a separate or associated archaeological management plan is recommended to ensure that all work within the cemetery recognises, manages and protects pre-1900 features and sites.

The conservation and archaeological plans should take into account the pre-colonial history of the land or any special significance it may hold for mana whenua. A research project with mana whenua is proposed (see 3.3.2.3 action (a)).

Tawa Historical Society has done considerable research into Tawa Cemetery burial records as it seems they may have been historically mislaid at the time the cemetery was transferred to Tawa Borough Council (see Appendix III). Further research continues and burial information that has been verified by research will be used in the cemeteries database.

4.1.3 Graves and monuments

Actions

- a) In consultation with Tawa Historical Society, prepare a prioritised list of graves needing maintenance and repair, using the assessment approach outlined in section 3.3.2.4.
- b) Seek funding to enable gravesite restoration work to be progressively carried out over a number of years.
- c) Carry out the prioritised maintenance and repairs as resources permit, including using volunteer help when available for suitable tasks.

Explanation

The graves at Tawa Cemetery are in mixed condition. Some of the more prominent memorials appear to have been recently cleaned by unknown people but others are in variable condition - broken, fallen over and overgrown. Prioritising and planning the work will be guided by the conservation plan. Tawa Historical Society is knowledgeable about the cemetery's history and the volunteer efforts in recent decades to tidy up and better recognise the cemetery. The society may wish to be involved in further work.

4.1.4 Visitor experience

1. Periodically update the on-site interpretation board as required to reflect visitor needs.

Action

- a) Promote the cemetery as a destination of interest by incorporating it into information about local walking opportunities and through the proposed new council cemeteries website (see 3.2.2.5).

Explanation

The Tawa Historical Society continues to research the cemetery's history and the people buried there. The first interpretation board was installed through the society's advocacy in 2009 and has since been replaced once to include new information.

4.1.5 Community and partnerships

1. Continue to work with and encourage Tawa Historic Society in its ongoing research and advocacy for protecting the cemetery's heritage.

Explanation

Tawa Historical Society has been instrumental in researching most of what is known about Tawa Cemetery and its work to date will be invaluable for the proposed heritage conservation plan. There may be further opportunities to work together on planning and implementing the cemetery's heritage conservation.



Tawa Cemetery Land Schedule



Mgmt Plan schedule #	WCC site #	Legal description	CT ref	Land area	Reserve description	Gazette ref	District plan zoning	Notes/actions needed
T-1	1816	Part Section 52 Porirua District	352/277	0.0986 ha	Historic Reserve, (named Tawa Cemetery Reserve)	NZ Gazette 2013/3958	Open Space B	Currently comes under the Northern Reserves Management Plan but practical management to be guided by this Cemeteries Management Plan in future.



4.2 Karori Cemetery

4.2.1 Land administration

Actions

- a) Rationalise the land held for Karori Cemetery by:
 - i. Classifying as scenic reserve the area at the north end to formalise its existing management as part of the Outer Green Belt, subdividing the land parcel(s) and amending the land titles as necessary to clarify that the land is no longer held for cemetery purposes.
 - ii. Stopping the road where graves are located on Rosehaugh Avenue road reserve and vesting it in the Council for cemetery purposes.
 - iii. Legalising the formed roadway between Rosehaugh Avenue and Seaforth Terrace and disposing of surplus land in the vicinity.
- b) Investigate potential uses of vacant land adjacent to the Standen Street entrance.
- c) When all remaining ash plots have been purchased, close Karori Cemetery under the Burial and Cremation Act.

Explanation

Some cemetery land at the base of Johnston Hill and adjoining Otari-Wilton's Bush is managed as part of the Outer Green Belt (see maps at end of this section). This land is steep and forested and has not been used for burials. It has significant natural values and the Outer Green Belt Management Plan (OGBMP) notes that the land requires reserve protection. It will be classified as scenic reserve in accordance with the OGBMP¹² and no longer part of the cemetery. In the meantime, if there is any policy conflict in relation to this land between this plan and the OGBMP, the OGBMP will take precedence.¹³

An area at the end of Standen Street has not been developed for cemetery use as the ground is unsuitable and the location isolated from the

rest of the cemetery. This area has been suggested as a potential site for a playground to serve the northern end of Karori but is considered unsuitable due to its secluded location. Alternative uses as part of the open space network are being investigated.

Council manages land parcels in the Seaforth Terrace/Rosehaugh Avenue area, which are surplus to cemetery needs and would be suitable for selling for residential housing (see maps at end of this section). However, inconsistencies in the land status of the formed road need to be sorted out first. Rosehaugh Avenue is a legal road but part of it contains graves and is managed as part of the cemetery. That part needs to be stopped and vested in the Council for cemetery use. The formed road from the end of Rosehaugh Avenue to Seaforth Terrace is not legal road. It needs to be legalised to regularise its use and to give adjoining surplus land a street address so it can be rezoned and sold. The land that is managed for cemeteries purposes cannot be sold directly by the Council. Council must work with the Crown to sell land and determine what, if any, proceeds of sale the Council can then use for other activities, such as reconfiguring the carpark at Rosehaugh Avenue to be a more efficient layout and purchasing new land (see 3.1.2.2).

4.2.2 Landscape character and amenity planting

1. Maintain and enhance Karori Cemetery as a heritage landscape, as guided by the updated Karori Cemetery Conservation Plan (see action 4.2.4. action (a)).

Actions

- a) Assess the impact that vegetation is having on the heritage in Karori Cemetery and identify the areas where work is required to reduce the risk of vegetation damage to graves, structures and infrastructure, such as retaining walls.

¹² OGBMP, Policy 4.1.2.1 (2).

¹³ Note: Otari-Wilton's Bush adjoins the northeast corner of the cemetery land to be reclassified and transferred to the Outer Green Belt. Though Otari-Wilton's Bush is part of the Outer Green Belt, its primary management document is the *Botanic Gardens of Wellington Management Plan* and will take precedence if there is any conflict between it and the OGBMP.

- b) Prepare a landscape management master plan of Karori Cemetery to integrate the long-term management and maintenance of the land, vegetation and built features. It would include heritage conservation work (see 4.2.4), clearly identifying areas of unique character and whatever long-term management is required to protect the character and/or manage change over time.
- c) Prioritise funding for an ongoing programme of proactive vegetation management at Karori Cemetery.
- d) Develop a list of plant species that will be appropriate to the landscape character of the different areas and site conditions in the cemetery to guide future planting. It would take account of the need to manage potential invasive weed and fire risk when implementing the overall landscape master plan.

Explanation

The combination of built and natural and planted elements at Karori Cemetery results in a diverse and unique heritage landscape.

The built landscape is notable for its variety. Each section of the cemetery has a distinctive character. The large areas of densely developed concrete graves are strongly influenced by topography, with some stepped down steep slopes and others aligned in an obvious grid pattern on level or gently sloping ground. In contrast, the areas of lawn cemetery, notably the armed services section, are much simpler and evenly graded. Similarly, the circulation pattern varies from wide paved roading to narrow mown pathways to steep tracks and steps. Some parts of the cemetery have a quite formal, traditional character where the grid layout is clearly evident. In other parts graves are sited less formally on steep slopes or in out-of-the-way corners. At the detailed scale, there is a fascinating range of styles and detailing evident in the graves and larger monuments and buildings (see sections 4.2.4 to 4.2.6 for policies on the cemetery's built features).

The natural topography and drainage patterns have influenced the overall layout. To the north, the steep

forested slopes now managed as part of the Outer Green Belt remain undeveloped and provide a visually important forested backdrop to the cemetery. A tributary to the Kaiwharawhara Stream flows through this northern area and a second stream flows into it from the cemetery. This second stream cuts across the middle of the cemetery in a steep-sided gully, which is the main natural area. It divides the cemetery at a broad scale north and south and contains some visually dominant stands of mature pine and macrocarpa. The Kaiwharawhara Stream defines the east boundary of the cemetery. See 4.2.3 for policies on managing the cemetery's natural environment.

The vegetation outside of the natural areas (see maps at end of this section) is managed as amenity planting as it relates closely to the developed areas in the cemetery and needs to be managed accordingly. The amenity planting varies according to the history of cemetery development, the topography, aspect and levels of past maintenance. The types of vegetation, broadly simplified, are as follows:

- Formal lawns of the armed services and lawn cemetery sections
- Informal grassed areas on sloping ground
- Gardens, such as the ash plot rose gardens, and various shrub and herbaceous borders
- Planted and self-seeded trees dispersed through the gravesite sections, including pathways
- Stands of mature exotic conifers, mainly associated with the steep gullies but also overhanging roadways and some burial areas
- Regenerating native vegetation, mainly in the gullies and stream riparian margins
- Invasive weed growth, especially along stream margins, but also dispersed through the graveyard areas (see more under 4.2.3 natural environment).

While the lawn areas, rose gardens and some herbaceous borders are regularly maintained, there are significant deferred vegetation maintenance issues throughout the cemetery that relate mainly to damaging tree growth, despite work that has been

done to remove trees causing damage. Many of the problem trees were planted but there are also self-sown trees that have developed on, or too close to, graves and structures such as retaining walls. Some shrub planting is also problematic. For example, flaxes have been planted directly in front of graves, blocking visual and physical access and developing invasive root growth. Flax and cabbage trees produce volumes of strappy fallen leaves that must be cleared before mechanical maintenance, such as weed eating, can happen. Some other planting, such as recent hybrids, are out of character with the historic era of the cemetery.

Maintenance in recent times has improved but there is little staffing capacity for more than the regular mowing and weed eating routines. Self-sown seedlings are now removed from graves before they develop. Clearing away accumulated plant debris, which could be flammable when dry, will help to reduce fire risk within the cemetery and the potential for fire to spread into the adjacent native forest of the Outer Green Belt and Otari-Wilton's Bush.

The Council holds data in its GIS tree database on more than 1000 trees or tree groups in the cemetery. The trees are monitored under the city-wide tree hazard programme and are surveyed after storms for additional damage and hazard risk. Most of the tree work is reactive, dealing to urgent tree hazard risks. There is also some scheduled tree work, however additional assessment of the threat to graves and other built heritage features is required to help plan and quantify future work. The impact of kaka damage on trees will also need to be assessed. In assessing and prioritising the work a balance will be needed between reducing the threat of damage to heritage values and the benefits of tree cover, such as visual amenity, shelter and wildlife habitat.

Blanket removal of trees is not advocated as it can result in greater exposure of graves to weather and potential erosion from increased direct runoff and large-scale tree removal often results in adverse public reaction. Instead, a gradual thinning of large trees

is likely and, where necessary, removal of smaller trees. Under this approach a lighter tree canopy will be maintained in future. Replanting will be needed to maintain the tree framework but should be carefully planned to match suitable species, including smaller growing ones, to suitable sites where there is room for them to mature.

Funding will need to be prioritised for this work to reduce ongoing vegetation damage to the graves and provide for site remediation/replanting as well as removal. The work should be incremental, via an annual vegetation work programme, so that the change happens gradually and can be monitored and adapted if need be. Adequate resourcing will be key.

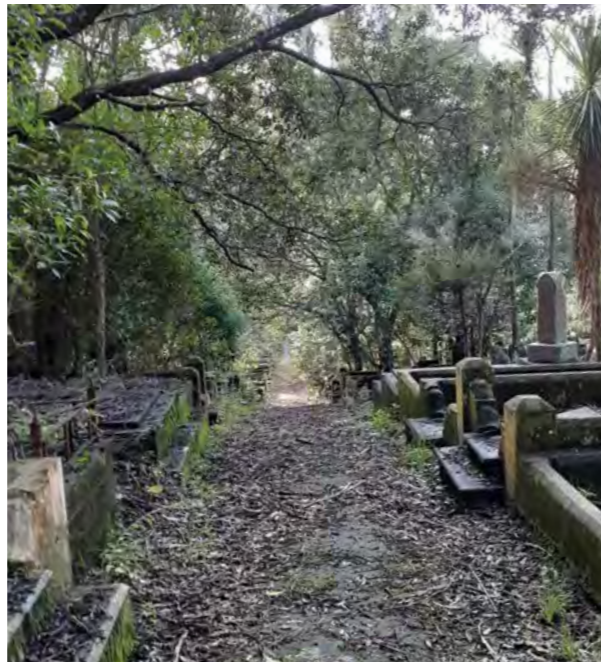
Overall, a landscape masterplan for the cemetery is required to pull together the various aspects of heritage conservation, vegetation management, natural environment management and visitor needs, such as wayfinding. Considerable work will be required to get the existing situation under control and then maintain it in future. The masterplan will provide a clear integrated direction for the long-term management and decision-making.



Eucalyptus trees planted on the eastern side of the cemetery in the 1970s to screen it from Wilton are now mature. While they provide shade, shelter and bird habitat, their root growth and fallen branches threaten to damage graves and the leaf and bark debris builds up.

4.2.3 Natural environment

1. Manage cemetery land within the Western Wellington Forests Key Native Ecosystem (KNE) and/or draft Otari-Wilton's Bush Significant Natural Area (SNA)¹⁴ under the Outer Green Belt Management Plan (see 4.2.1 action (a)).
2. Protect and restore the freshwater ecology in streams that cross and border the cemetery by maintaining or establishing streamside buffer vegetation and reduce erosion.
3. Support community initiatives to care for the streams and monitor stream health through partnerships and wider programmes within the Kaiwharawhara catchment, such as Sanctuary to Sea/Kia Mauriora te Kaiwharawhara.



Trees have been planted or allowed to develop between graves in narrow spaces that are not big enough to accommodate the mature tree. Roots often extend into nearby graves causing damage.

4. Encourage native forest to regenerate in the stream gullies except where there are records of burials being present.
5. Continue to monitor the exotic conifers in the natural area of the cemetery and allow them to age and fall naturally, subject to selective pruning or removal where necessary and feasible for safety or heritage protection.
6. Manage weeds and pest animals in accordance with *Our Natural Capital Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan*.
7. Encourage and support community participation in weed and pest animal control, restoration planting and ecological monitoring.

¹⁴ The KNE has been identified by Greater Wellington Regional Council under its KNE programme to protect some of the best examples of ecosystem types in the Wellington region. The SNA (No. WC061) was mapped more recently under the significant natural areas mapping being done as part of the Wellington City District Plan review. The draft SNAs are subject to consultation and review at the time of writing this plan. The KNE and the SNA largely overlap within the cemetery.

8. Apply best practice water sensitive design when developing new infrastructure or maintenance works within the cemetery, to protect freshwater values.

Actions

- a) Prepare a Karori Cemetery weed list and weed management plan and apply for dedicated implementation resourcing.
- b) Work with the community and experts to investigate how to manage the riparian bank above the Kaiwharawhara Stream for stream health without damaging the graves on the lower slope.
- c) Consider the potential ecological impacts, including fire risk, of some heritage plant species and how to manage those impacts when developing the amenity planting list (see 4.2.2 action (d)) and the new graves and monuments maintenance and repair guidelines (see 3.3.2.4 action (a)).

Explanation

The Karori Cemetery is located in an area that would originally have been clad in native lowland forest. The cemetery land was cleared for settlement but secondary forest has regenerated on the slopes and stream gully at the north end of the cemetery. That regenerated forest is part of the regionally significant Western Wellington Forests KNE and the draft Otari-Wilton's Bush SNA, which largely lie within the Outer Green Belt. The KNE/SNA part of the cemetery will be classified scenic reserve and added to the Outer Green Belt for consistent management with the larger forest areas. The relevant Outer Green Belt policies will be applied to that part of the cemetery in the interim. The remaining natural environment areas (see maps at end of this section) will be managed according to this plan.

The cemetery lies within the Kaiwharawhara Catchment. Kaiwharawhara Stream flows along part of the cemetery's eastern boundary. It is an important freshwater environment and wildlife corridor that connects Zealandia, Otari-Wilton's Bush and Te Whanganui a Tara (Wellington Harbour).

It's protection and restoration are objectives in the Council's biodiversity strategy, *Our Natural Capital*. The collaborative initiative, Sanctuary to Sea/Kia Mouriora te Kaiwharawhara, aims to protect these values in the catchment. There are some graves located quite low down the slope above the Kaiwharawhara Stream. The recent removal of some large trees in the vicinity for clearance below a power pylon has opened up the area to weed growth and revealed the proximity of some graves to the stream. Any riparian restoration should take into account the potential impact on these graves.

The tributary stream across the cemetery is fed mainly from suburban stormwater sources and flows into the cemetery near the end of Standen Street. There are two culverts, the lower of which was remediated for fish passage in 2017. In 2018, students from Wellington East Girl's College surveyed the water quality, habitat, macroinvertebrate and fish population as part of the 'Te Awa Kaiwharawhara Restoration Plan', a restoration partnership under the 'Mountains to Sea, Wellington' education programme. Banded kokopu and a long fin eel were found. The stream's ecological health was found to be moderate to good but with increasing problems of sedimentation due to bank erosion, riparian weed growth, moderate contamination and rubbish. Plastic flowers blown from the cemetery pollute the stream and eventually end up in the harbour. Objectives of the ongoing project are to stabilise the banks and riparian stream margin to improve stream habitat, keep the stream clear of rubbish and improve water quality.

The Council generally manages exotic conifers on its reserve land for ecological and/or recreational benefits, allowing trees to age and fall naturally. Those in the natural areas of the cemetery will be managed in this way. Their gradual thinning is an option but must be done carefully to avoid destabilising the whole tree group and their removal is considered of lower priority than other exotic conifers and tall trees growing within developed areas of the cemetery.

Weed and pest animal control is managed as part of the Council's city-wide programme, taking into account the cemetery's proximity to the ecologically significant native forest in Otari-Wilton's Bush and the Sanctuary-to-Sea corridor down the Kaiwharawhara Stream valley.

A specific plan is required to understand the extent of the weed problem in Karori Cemetery and prioritise the species that most threaten the health of the Otari forest. Invasive weed species currently present include old man's beard, blackberry, Japanese honeysuckle, Darwin's barberry, tradescantia, bamboo and ivy. These species have the potential to spread via birds, wind or streams - invading built heritage in the cemetery, obstructing access and spreading beyond the cemetery into Otari-Wilton's Bush with adverse impact on natural values. One aspect of heritage planting in the cemetery that should be considered is the weedy nature of some plant species that might have been used traditionally. Where the heritage value indicates continued use, management methods will be needed such as confining to small areas or preventing berry/seed development, as is done at Bolton Street Cemetery.

Pest animal control is carried out in Karori Cemetery¹⁵ as part of a wider network of traps and bait stations in the adjacent Outer Green Belt, targeting mustelids, rats and hedgehogs. The network is managed collaboratively between the Council, GWRC and the RAMBO and KATCH22 volunteer groups¹⁶. The area is expected to come under the Predator Free Wellington programme within the timeframe of this management plan. Rabbits are managed under a regular shooting programme (see 3.3.2.2). Cat sightings have been reported. The Council is limited in its legal ability to manage cats but is committed to reducing the impact of stray and feral cats and will endeavour to do so where possible. The Council also encourages responsible pet ownership to reduce the impact of pets on wildlife.

4.2.4 Heritage recognition and protection

1. Protect, manage and promote Karori Cemetery as an historic place in a manner that is compatible with its continuing cemetery purpose.

Actions

- a) Review the *Karori Cemetery Conservation Plan 2003*, update as necessary, including consideration of vegetation management as part of the cemetery's heritage landscape. Include a long-term maintenance plan with guidance on best practice maintenance, integrated with the proposed landscape management master plan for the cemetery (see 4.2.2 action (b)).
- b) Seek to have the heritage at Karori Cemetery recognised and protected in the following ways, after the cemetery is closed:
 - i. Nominate the cemetery as a Historic Place in the Heritage New Zealand List/Rārangi Kōrero
 - ii. Classify as an historic reserve under the Reserves Act (see 4.2.1 action (c))
 - iii. Consider scheduling the cemetery as a heritage area and the Main Chapel, Servicemen's Arch and two columbaria as heritage buildings or objects in the Wellington City Council District Plan.
- c) Consult mana whenua and the community about renaming Karori Cemetery to reflect the original Māori name for the area.
- d) Carry out an archaeological assessment and prepare an archaeological management plan of Karori Cemetery to identify the areas, including graves, where an archaeological authority from Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga would be required before work could be completed.

Explanation

Karori Cemetery is an archaeological site under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014, as it was established before 1900. The cemetery holds significant history about Wellington's colonial settlement, its people and its subsequent development (see Appendix III for a brief historical summary). Therefore, the Council intends to manage the cemetery as an historic place while also maintaining an appropriate atmosphere for a cemetery. Funerals and cremations at the chapels and crematorium, interments and disinterments can continue even after the cemetery is closed under the Burial and Cremation Act.

The 2003 conservation plan included information about the condition of the cemetery and recommendations for action. Another 17 years have passed and little heritage conservation work has occurred. It is timely to update and review it in light of subsequent change in the condition of the cemetery and the need to plan for better vegetation management (see 4.2.2). The updated heritage conservation plan will guide prioritising future maintenance and repair work. It needs to be integrated with the master plan to ensure long-term heritage conservation of structures and graves is co-ordinated with the long-term landscape management and maintenance.

The Cemetery Management Plan 2003 and *Karori Cemetery Conservation Plan 2003* both proposed the forms of recognition and protection in action (b) above but these were not actioned. Comprehensive research was carried out at that time, which demonstrated the high heritage value of the cemetery and the features within it. Any potential nomination to the Heritage New Zealand List/Rārangi Kōrero or decision to schedule the cemetery in the district plan would need to consider the implications for ongoing cemetery operations alongside heritage protection.

The Council will therefore pursue a nomination for listing by HNZPT and consider scheduling the cemetery in the district plan once the cemetery is

closed. District plan scheduling is subject to a separate decision-making process that would require further research, assessment against the heritage criteria and thresholds, and a district plan change. If the cemetery is listed by Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga then the Council would also be required to have regard to any entry on the Heritage New Zealand List/Rārangi Kōrero when preparing or changing the Wellington District Plan.

More knowledge of the pre-colonial and subsequent Māori history associated with the land is needed. A research project with mana whenua is proposed (see 3.3.2.3 action (a)). Consultation with mana whenua is also required about the word 'Karori', which is a shortening of the original Māori name 'Kaharore', meaning 'the ridge for snaring birds'. The question of renaming the suburb has been raised in the local community. The Burial and Cremation Act requires ministerial approval to change the name of a cemetery.

The need for an archaeological authority for work on gravesites will only be triggered where the grave originated before 1900, the last known activity was also pre-1900 and the proposed work involves intrusive activity such as removing features for repair, reconstructing features or carrying out earthworks for additional interments or disinterments. Many of the pre-1900 graves in Karori Cemetery may have had subsequent burials or altering activity since 1900 and would not, therefore, need an archaeological authority. Identifying the areas of the cemetery, including graves, that do and don't need an authority would be useful for:

- Identifying the graves where Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga would need to be contacted if a further interment or disinterment was requested
- Grouping proposed work requiring an archaeological authority together under a single application.

If the heritage at Karori Cemetery is formally recognised in the ways proposed above, community expectations about its conservation are likely to

¹⁵ The rear part of Karori Cemetery is mapped as a pest animal buffer zone in *Key Native Ecosystem Operational Plan for Western Wellington Forests 2019-2024*, GWRC, p.25, map 5

¹⁶ RAMBO is run by the Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust and KATCH22 by Mākara Peak Supporters.

rise. More will need to be done in the way of regular maintenance and heritage conservation work, with financial and resourcing implications (see section 6).

4.2.5 Graves and monuments

1. Carry out the prioritised maintenance and repairs as resources permit, including working with volunteer help when available for suitable tasks.
2. Where appropriate, issue single permits to approve maintenance and repair work on multiple graves and monuments in the prioritised list.

Actions

- a) In consultation with the Friends of Karori Cemetery, prepare and maintain a prioritised list of graves needing maintenance and repair, using the assessment approach outlined.
- b) Seek funding to enable enough gravesite restoration work to be carried out to see a substantial improvement in the general condition of the graves at Karori Cemetery over the next 10 years.

Explanation

Karori Cemetery contains a huge collection of some 86,400 graves that vary from the simple to the formal and elaborate. Many graves are not marked in any physical way. The types of grave and some other memorials are described in Appendix V.

Many gravesites are in deteriorated condition, partly due to natural weathering and the effects of time. For example, the unreinforced concrete slabs that cover many graves have cracked and/or collapsed because the burial remains have broken down and the underlying ground slumped. In many places graves have been damaged by tree growth, including the effects of invasive root systems, branch and tree fall. Erosion from run-off is another damaging force in places. Unfortunately, some graves have been damaged due to ill-advised maintenance activities.

The focus of the next 10 years is intended to be firstly on assessment and planning for improvements and then to begin a programme of work to halt the decline.

4.2.6 Buildings, infrastructure and facilities

1. Continue to use the office building at Karori Cemetery for cemetery administration and public enquiries.
2. If Karori Cemetery is closed under the Burial and Cremation Act in future, continue to use the two chapels for funeral services and operate the crematorium.
3. Use the Shelter as an information centre and base for cemetery tours and other activities run by the Friends of Karori Cemetery.

Actions

- a) Seek the district plan heritage scheduling of the Shelter to be updated with this name.
- b) Carry out required maintenance and proposed restoration of the Shelter, subject to preparing a conservation plan to guide the work and obtaining an archaeological authority.
- c) Investigate the feasibility of providing an additional public toilet accessible from the Small Chapel. If feasible, develop subject to heritage assessment to ensure heritage values are protected.
- d) Continue to refurbish the Main Chapel to improve its appeal, accessibility and range of facilities for funeral and other appropriate uses, including increased capacity if feasible.

Explanation

Each of the existing buildings has had a role in the history of the cemetery's development, whether for funeral services, cremations, storage, staff facilities, office space or public enquiries. The chapels and crematorium are recognised historic buildings (see Appendix III) and the other buildings have been developed to provide for functional needs. Even after the cemetery eventually closes, it is likely that these buildings will continue to be used for similar functions. However, that is not to preclude the possibility that the buildings might be used differently in future. The principle of sustainable

re-use is supported provided that any new use is sensitive to the cemetery setting and involves minimal change to buildings with identified heritage values.

The Shelter (known formerly as Mortuary Chapel or Jewish Chapel) is ideally located for an information centre. It is a distinctive, easily recognised landmark feature down the main drive at a convenient central point, close to the older sections of the cemetery. Its location beyond the chapels and crematorium also separates it from the main focus of bereavement services. The building was originally a shelter for mourners. It was a gathering point in the cemetery and that will be reinstated with the new use. It was originally listed in the Heritage New Zealand/Rārangī Kōrero List as the 'Mortuary Chapel' but was renamed 'Shelter' in 2021 to better reflect its original purpose and new use. Its current listing in the district plan as 'Jewish Chapel (former) 1902' requires a corresponding update. The building is due for repainting, which will provide an opportunity to also restore some original features, including decorative roof detailing and copper guttering. The building was originally an open structure but it is not proposed to open it up again. Instead, reglazing is proposed with appropriately designed security shutters. As it is a listed heritage building all maintenance and restoration work must be done according to an up-to-date conservation plan and necessary approvals sought.

People attending funerals at the Small Chapel with limited mobility have difficulty in accessing the public toilets near the office or in the Main Chapel. Therefore, the feasibility of providing a new toilet within easy reach of the Small Chapel will be investigated, bearing in mind the potential impact on the heritage buildings and other heritage features in the vicinity.

The Crematorium, Small Chapel and Main Chapel have all been earthquake strengthened in recent years. While the Small Chapel is popular for its heritage character and intimate size, its small size is a limitation.

The Main Chapel is larger and has its own entrance on Rosehaugh Avenue with a sizeable parking area. The quiet setting and easy, flat access are advantageous but improvements would make it more appealing. The outdoor courtyard has been upgraded, recladding and repainting is nearly complete and further work is planned under the asset management programme to improve the indoor-outdoor connection, upgrade the toilet facilities and add a small kitchenette. These improvements will enable people to undertake simple self-catering – an option that would support those wishing to organise their own funerals. Other improvements that would potentially boost usage include additional seating, if feasible, to cater for larger funerals and reconfiguring the carparking layout to optimise its capacity. Refurbishment might also open up the potential to increase use and revenue by hiring out the building for other purposes such as weddings, talks or recitals at times that would not clash with funeral use. The building's separate street entrance means that it can be accessed for such purposes independent of the cemetery. The building's heritage value is noted in section 4.2.4.

4.2.7 Visitor experience

1. Encourage recreational use and enjoyment of the historic landscape and natural environment at Karori Cemetery, while managing potentially conflicting activities.
2. Encourage and support the provision of guided and self-guided cemetery tours aimed at guiding visitors and offering an interactive form of interpretation about the cemetery values, history and stories of interest. Guided tours are subject to approval by the cemeteries manager, who will take into account the potential impact on the cemetery environment and other visitors, including:
 - i. The number of people allowed in each tour group
 - ii. The frequency of the tours
 - iii. The steps that would be taken to avoid tours coinciding with sensitive cemetery activities such as funerals and interments.

Actions

- a) Research the historical naming of roadways, paths, areas and sites within the cemetery to inform the development of a wayfinding strategy.
- b) Install temporary name signs on the main routes and at the main junction points in the cemetery to improve basic wayfinding until action (c) is completed.
- c) With reference to the proposed Cemeteries Visitor Experience Strategy (see 3.4.2.3) develop:
 - i. As the first priority, a Karori Cemetery Wayfinding Signage Plan that:
 - reflects an assessment of circulation patterns, common destinations and loop routes
 - provides for clear direction signage on track connections to adjacent open spaces, including denoting walking-only or shared use
 - includes an audit of existing signage
 - reflects naming used historically at the cemetery
 - includes signage design specifications for functionality and appropriate heritage style.
 - ii. As the second priority, a Karori Cemetery Interpretation Plan.
- d) Gradually implement the wayfinding and interpretation strategies, as resources permit
- e) Develop a new walking-only track between the cemetery and Ian Galloway Park.
- f) Develop an entrance to the Outer Green Belt at the end of Standen Street with a map board to direct Outer Green Belt users.
- g) Develop a new shared track from the Standen Street entrance to the shared 'Cemetery to Skyline Track', to divert bike riders away from the cemetery.

Explanation

Karori Cemetery is increasingly popular for recreational activities – exercise-related such as walking, running, cycling and dog-walking and heritage-related such as finding graves for genealogical interest and simply exploring the older sections and reading headstone inscriptions. At the same time funeral services and cremations continue to occur at the chapels and crematorium, interments continue in the ash plot areas and occasionally in family graves, ashes continue to be scattered in approved areas and the bereaved still go to the office for help. Most of these cemetery-related activities will continue to varying degrees, even after the cemetery is closed – certainly for the duration of this management plan. Therefore, activities are managed under the Rules section to ensure they are appropriate to a cemetery and to encourage respectful behaviour.

It is likely that the cemetery's proximity to the adjacent Outer Green Belt and the playing fields at Ian Galloway Park boosts recreational activity because of the opportunities for loop walking and bike riding routes that pass through the cemetery. For instance, visitors can incorporate the cemetery into a loop walk up Johnston Hill or through Otari-Wilton's Bush. Overall, this is positive because more people discover the cemetery and with that comes appreciation of its heritage and unique character. A recent track audit recommended a new track be developed to improve loop walk opportunities between Otari-Wilton's Bush, Ian Galloway Park and the cemetery. Its development would be an opportunity to improve the currently difficult access to graves above Kaiwharawhara Stream.

Most of the 'through' recreational use is compatible but there have been a few incidents of disrespectful mountain biking behaviour where bikers have used graves as jump-offs and there is potential for conflict between those on foot and those on bikes on the narrow paths in the cemetery. For these reasons

cycling and mountain biking is restricted to the wider paved routes maintained for vehicle use and to any tracks that are specifically signposted as being for shared use.

Mountain bikers will also be encouraged to access the Outer Green Belt via Standen Street where land currently held for cemetery purposes will be transferred to the Outer Green Belt (see 4.2.1). There is just one shared track accessible from the cemetery – the Cemetery to Skyline connector route. Currently, bikers access this shared track via the paved vehicle routes in the cemetery but it is proposed to extend the shared track to divert mountain bikers directly to Standen Street, where a minor Outer Green Belt entrance will be developed. All other tracks into the Outer Green Belt, including into Otari-Wilton's Bush, are for walking-only use.

Overseas, cemetery tours focusing on the heritage and historical stories of interest have proved popular, as have guided tours at Karori Cemetery now run by the Friends of Karori Cemetery. Tours that emphasise particular themes, physical character and stories of the people interred there can build a vivid sense of place, local identity and appreciation of the heritage. They also offer an interactive shared experience whereby visitors explore together with a knowledgeable guide. The tours are an attraction and have the added benefit of promoting awareness and appreciation of the cemetery's heritage. Guided tours need to be managed, however, to ensure they do not cause inappropriate noise and distraction near the bereaved and do not undermine the peaceful atmosphere valued by both family and recreational visitors. Self-guided cemetery tours will also be encouraged, linked in with the implementation of the Karori Cemetery wayfinding and interpretation plans.

The wayfinding and interpretation plans will address a significant current issue, which is the difficulty visitors have in finding their way around the cemetery and finding specific plot locations. The implementation will be by a combination of on-site signage and digital applications. On-site signage will

be planned and designed to give adequate directional guidance and information without cluttering the cemetery. Digital applications will enable people to locate their current position and find their desired route using interactive online mapping, which can also be linked to cemetery records and interpretation material. Improved wayfinding will be a time-saver for cemetery staff by reducing the need for visitors to ask for help.

4.2.8 Community and partnerships

1. Continue to encourage, support and work with the Friends of Karori Cemetery to achieve shared objectives in the management of Karori Cemetery through an agreed Memorandum of Understanding.
2. Continue to work with, and support, community groups which undertake special projects or educational events at Karori Cemetery.
3. Encourage regular visitors to become involved in volunteer activities at Karori Cemetery.

Action

- a) Seek annual funding to support the Friends of Karori Cemetery during the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 financial years to build its community base and undertake approved heritage conservation work at Karori Cemetery.

Explanation

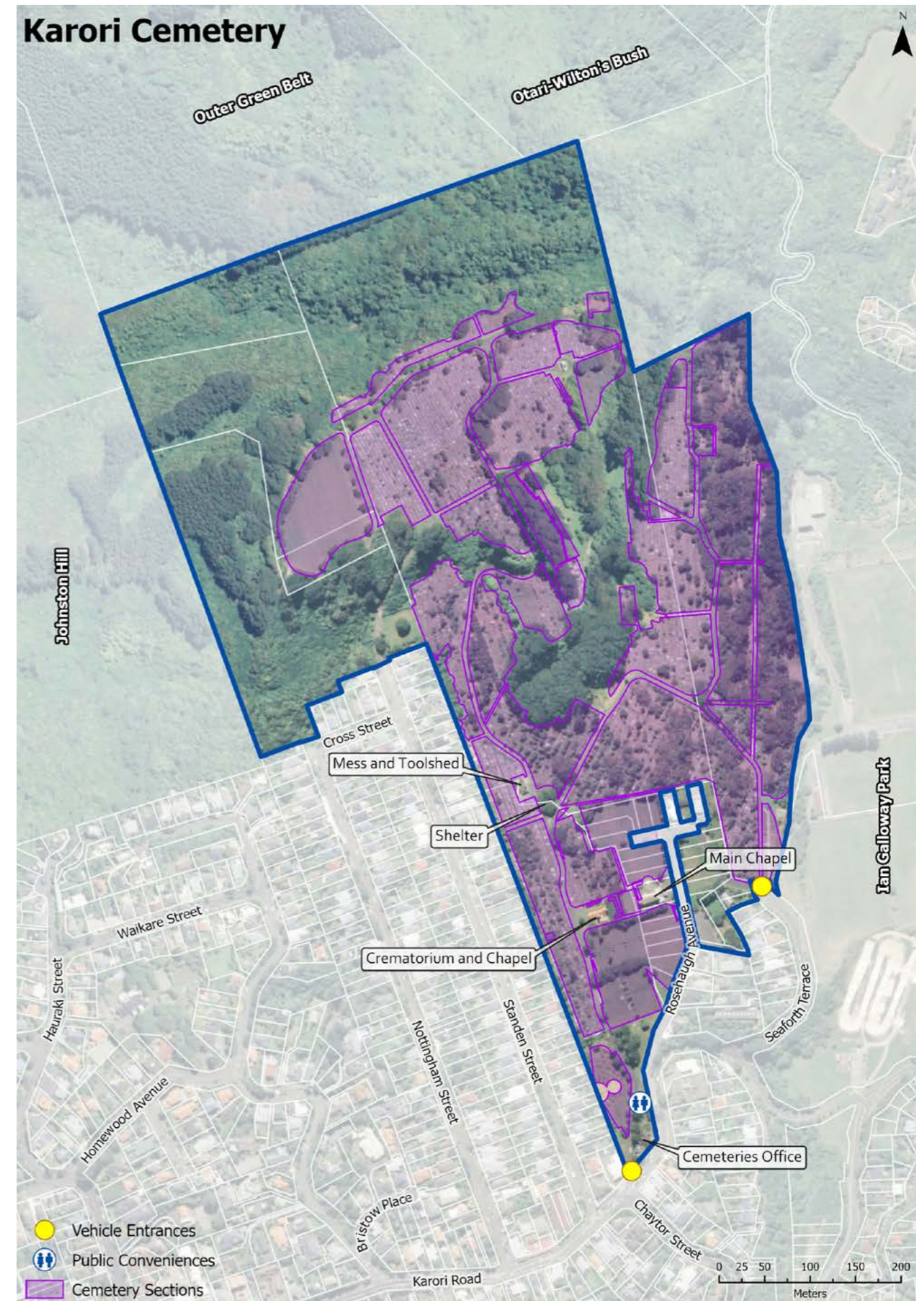
Karori Cemetery is increasingly valued by the community for a variety of reasons. Many people have a personal connection with it through past family burials and cremations. Interest in genealogy is seeing increasing numbers of people wanting to refer to the cemetery's records and locate and visit gravesites. As noted in section 4.2.7, it is also popular for recreation. Heightened use appears to be generating more interest and appreciation of the cemetery's heritage. In recent years cemetery tours and heritage awareness programmes, such as marking the centenary of the 1918 flu epidemic, have boosted interest.

The establishment of the Friends of Karori Cemetery in January 2020 reflects this growing interest and appreciation of the cemetery. The Friends and the Council have shared objectives to support the preservation, protection and enhancement of the heritage, recreational and ecological aspects of the cemetery - and to promote public interest. The Friends' plans include running regular working bees, undertaking research and publication of findings, tree planting, and regular communication to engage the community and promote awareness.

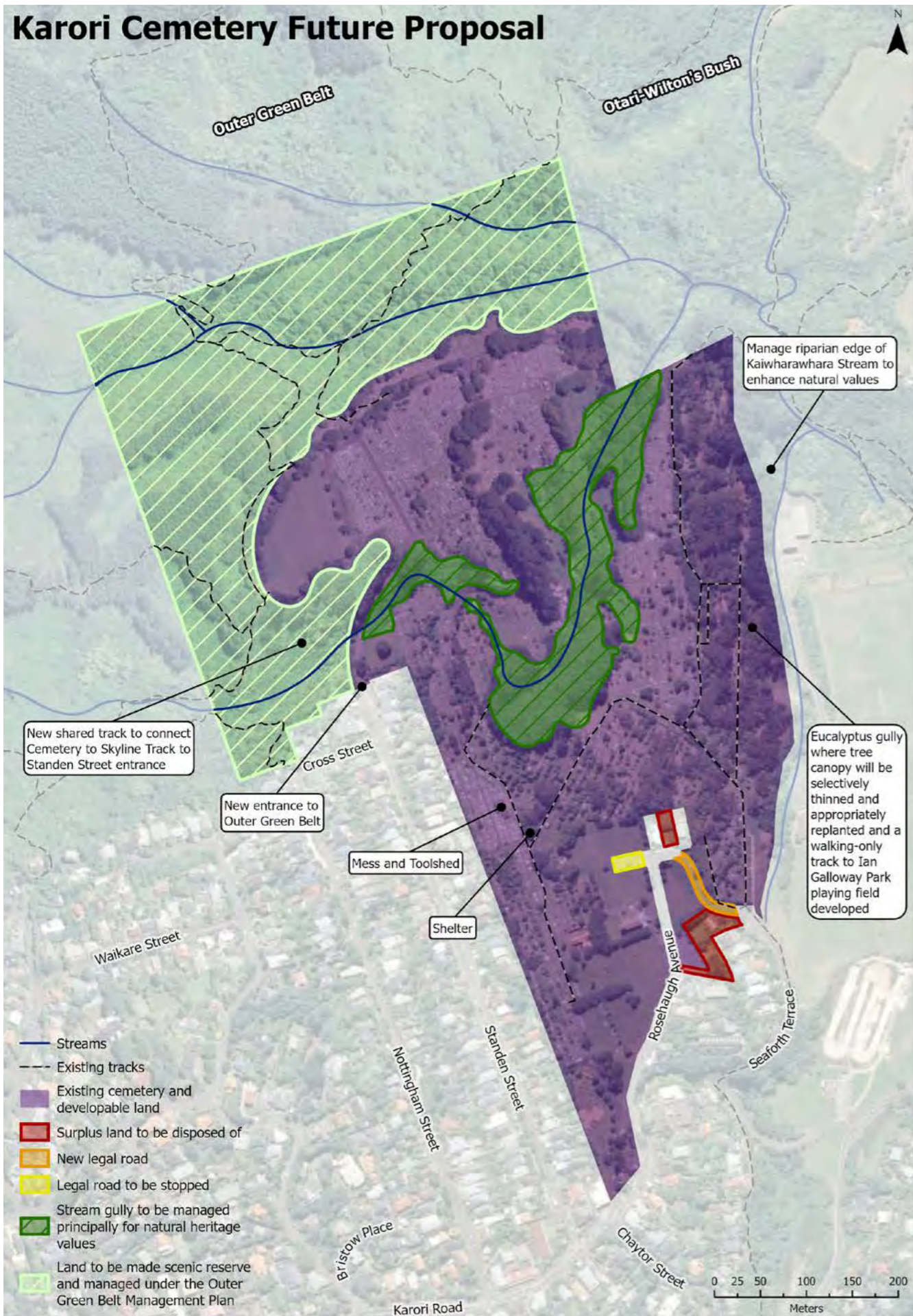
A Memorandum of Understanding between the Friends and the Council has been agreed, which sets out a series of operating principles of working in collaboration, including regular communication and acknowledgement that any grave cleaning and maintenance work carried out by the Friends will be subject to council approval by permit. The Council will enable the Friends to access The Shelter, help establish it as an information centre and use it as a base for its community activities, including tours. Their on-site presence is likely to help alleviate pressure on cemetery staff to answer enquiries and will no doubt encourage community engagement with the cemetery. The Council will also provide the Friends with a tool shed for storage of equipment and

heritage items awaiting restoration. Initial funding in the two 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years is proposed to assist the group get established and begin work on agreed initiatives aligned with the policies in this management plan. Any further funding would be reviewed in the context of any funding recommendations for work at Karori Cemetery during the next 2024-2027 Long-term Plan period.

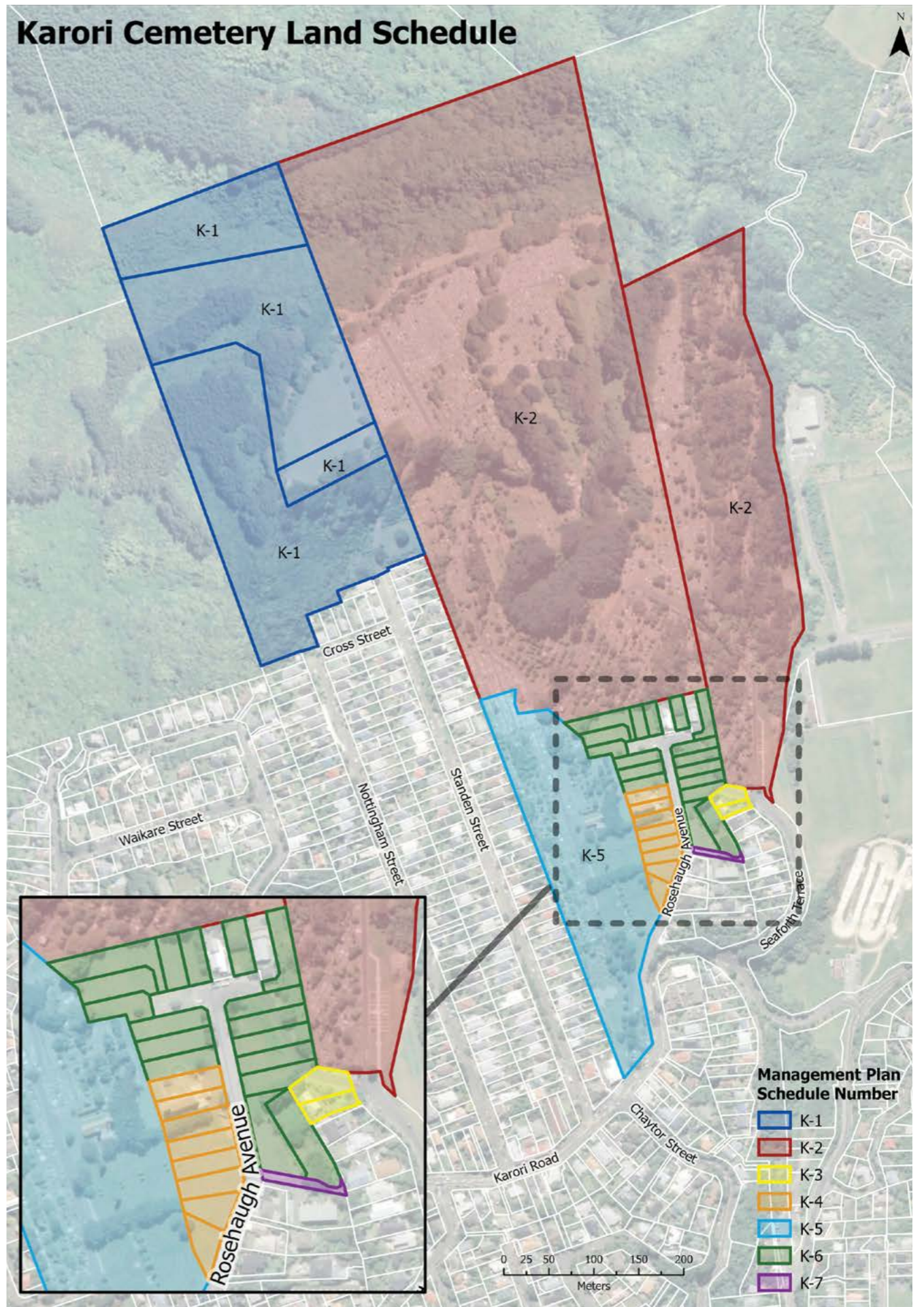
At various times, community groups such as local cadet and scout groups have visited the cemetery as part of their youth development programmes. As noted in 4.2.3, Wellington East Girls' College is involved in an ongoing stream restoration project and the RAMBO and KATCH22 groups are actively involved in pest animal control. There is also potential for city-wide programmes such as Predator-Free Wellington to generate volunteer activity in the cemetery. Such activities can facilitate understanding the cemetery's heritage values and encourage active involvement.



Karori Cemetery Future Proposal



Karori Cemetery Land Schedule



Karori Cemetery Land Schedule

Mgmt Plan schedule #	WCC site #	Legal description	CT ref.	Land area	Reserve description	Gazette ref.	District plan zoning	Notes / Actions needed
K-1	1141	Pt Sec 33 Karori District	626/83	10.1588 ha	Not a reserve		Open Space B	All the land in CT 626/83 is held freehold by the Council, however two parts of it are tagged for cemetery purposes by the 1938 and 1962 Local Legislation Acts. This legislation authorises WCC to use 3.7885 ha for cemetery purposes. Actions Propose surveying the area managed as Outer Green Belt, classify as scenic reserve and continue to manage as Outer Green Belt.
K-2	1141	Pt Sec 31 and Pt Sec 33 Karori District	34D/196	27.1783 ha	Not a reserve		Open Space B	Land set apart for cemetery purposes, pursuant to the Public Works Act 1981, NZ 1989/2169(doc B.009893.1). Actions Propose surveying the area managed as Outer Green Belt, classify as scenic reserve and continue to manage as Outer Green Belt.
K-3	1141	Lot 30 Pt Lot 31 DP 9848	20D/724	0.1075 ha	Local Purpose Reserve (site for municipal buildings)	NZ Gazette 1980/ 2711	Open Space B	Land reserved for municipal purposes, NZ Gazette 1950/1864 (changed from Cemetery purposes to municipal purposes). Vested as a reserve for municipal purposes, NZ Gazette 1950/1865, pursuant to Public Reserves, Domains & National Parks Act 1928. In 1980 the land was classified under the Reserves Act 1977 as a Local Purpose Reserve (site for municipal buildings), NZ Gazette 1980/1147. Part of the reserve (being part lot 31, DP 9848) was revoked, NZ Gazette 1980/2711, looking at the aerial this would have been done to better align the boundaries. Order in Council 433545 authorising the laying off of an under-width street.
K-4	1141	Lots 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 on DP 9848	578/53	0.4944 ha	Not a reserve		Open Space B	Held for cemetery purposes, acquired under the Public Works Act for cemetery purposes - not a reserve. Section 23 Local legislation Act 1938 - authorises WCC to use for cemetery purposes
K-5	1141	Lot 1 A 316. Pt Sec 33 of the Karori District	485/211	3.5941 ha	Not a reserve		Open Space B	Council freehold, held for cemetery purposes. Heritage buildings 165, 164/1 and 164/2 listed in Wellington City District Plan.
K-6	1141	Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 33, 34, 35 and 36 DP 9848 and Sec 78, and Pt Sec 79. Karori District	568/5	1.4321 ha	Local Purpose (Cemetery) Reserve	NZ Gazette 1989/ 4484	Open Space B	B.040425.1 Gazette Notice classifies the land to be Local Purpose (Cemetery) Reserve, subject to the Reserves Act 1977 (NZ Gazette 1989/4484). Order in Council 1504 exempting Rosehaugh Ave from Sec 128 PWA subject to a building line. Certificate K 8692 - relates to a common drain over land. Fencing covenant 252375 (Lot 11). Order in Council 433545 authorising the laying off of a proposed street. Docs. 570814,776668 & 797039 refer to changes in appellations/legal descriptions. Actions Rationalise and dispose of surplus land areas as per section 4.2.1, Land Administration in this plan, Actions 1 (b) and (c).
K-7	1141	Sec 87 Karori District	8A/560	0.0322 ha	Not a reserve		Open Space B	Subject to section 59 of the Land Act at 1948, this section refers to mineral rights being reserve by the Crown.

Land for addition to Karori Cemetery

Legal description	Location	Notes / Actions needed
Legal road, Rosehaugh Avenue	Northwest arm of Rosehaugh Avenue	Actions Propose legal road stopping of the area where graves are located, vest in the Council for cemetery purposes and zone as open space in the district plan.



4.3 Mākara Cemetery

4.3.1 Land administration

1. Subject to the outcomes of the proposed master plan of the existing cemetery land and any new land the Council may acquire, rationalise the Council's cemetery-related land at Mākara by:
 - i. Disposing of any land that is surplus to cemetery purposes and surplus to achieving the Council's strategic open space management objectives, or
 - ii. Surveying off and classifying as recreation reserve or scenic reserve under the Reserves Act any land that is surplus to cemetery purposes and is to be retained as part of the Council's open space network.
2. Continue the existing Wellington Pony Club grazing lease over land on the east side of Mākara Road until the lease expires. Consider use of the grazed land beyond the current lease in the context of new master plan (4.3.1(1)).

Explanation

The land currently held for cemetery purposes at Mākara was historically acquired as large rural blocks of variable topography. In 2018 it was found that very little of the remaining undeveloped land is suitable for cemetery development (see 3.1.2.2). It is now timely to review whether to retain or dispose of the remaining land in light of wider strategic policies and any potential acquisition of adjacent land for expansion (see 3.1.2.3). Most of it has open space values that warrants continued council ownership, including future potential recreational links to the Outer Green Belt, recreational opportunities in the local area, existing and potential carbon farming, and biodiversity and freshwater protection. Any land that is to be retained for open space values rather than cemetery purposes will eventually be classified as reserve land under the Reserves Act to clarify the Council's management objectives and appropriately protect the open space values.

4.3.2 Landscape character and amenity planting

1. Maintain and enhance Mākara Cemetery as a countryside cemetery of sweeping lawns defined by specimen tree planting and areas of native bush that frame views out to the surrounding rural landscape.

Actions

- a) Assess the need for potential improvements by reviewing the functionality, visitor amenity and maintenance regime of the existing cemetery area (see maps at end of this section), including:
 - i. Adequacy of the tree framework and suitability of species
 - ii. Maintenance issues
 - iii. Accessibility, including provision of seating and footpaths
 - iv. Potential to enhance the children's section
 - v. Potential to provide more ash circles/ash walls
 - vi. Adequacy of facilities such as water taps and bins
 - vii. Visibility of the Mākara Road entrance
 - viii. Adequacy of wayfinding signage, including roadside entrance signs
 - ix. Potential to develop wildflowers as a feature.If any adjacent land is acquired, carry out the review as part of master planning the cemetery extension (see 3.1.2.2 and 3.1.2.3).
- b) Plan a landscape management work plan, based on the results of the review, for gradual implementation.
- c) Develop a list of plant species to guide future planting of the tree framework, amenity specimen trees, shrub and herbaceous borders, that will be appropriate to the landscape character and suited to the site conditions. Take into account the potential for visitors to pick flowers or foliage as an environmentally friendly and, for some, culturally appropriate tribute option (see 3.2.2.3 (5) and 3.2.2.3 action (a)).
- d) Offer commemorative planting in groves along the Mākara Road edge, based on a landscape plan.

Explanation

Feedback during the engagement for this plan showed that, overall, visitors appreciate the countryside setting and lawn cemetery character of Mākara Cemetery, with its peaceful atmosphere and spacious layout. The cemetery's tidy condition attracted positive comment though people noted the problem of windblown rubbish that collects in fences and vegetation (see 3.2.2.3, gravesite decorations). The cemetery has been developed along the top of a low spur above Mākara village. The site is exposed to wind that funnels up the valley and people comment about the wind. Over time, though, vegetation growth on the steeper ground has developed and provides some shelter as well as a pleasant green edge to the cemetery areas. Specimen tree planting along the main driveways has also now developed sufficiently to provide a formal tree framework along the main driveways and defines some of the burial sections. The planting is a mixture of species that reflect different phases in the cemetery's development. The main species are cypress, conifer, Norfolk Island pine, ngaio, alder, pohutukawa and, more recently, totara. Community engagement included requests for more trees and there is potential for more specimen or group tree planting to improve the amenity of some areas. However, it needs to be well thought out, to avoid creating future maintenance problems.

It is timely to review the landscape management at the same time as the master planning of any suitable adjacent land is done, so that any further improvements or new features within the existing cemetery and the interface between the existing and any new cemetery areas are well integrated. It would also be helpful to understand the practical site challenges encountered in developing the existing cemetery, such as the prevailing wind and gravesite layout on sloping ground.

The review should also address the potential to develop more interment and commemorative options. The ash circles and ash walls have been popular and there is continuing demand. The existing children's section is in a peripheral part of the cemetery and

feels somewhat isolated. This is an area where families often have other young children with them when they visit and the addition of a focal point for young siblings could help families to spend quiet time together. An example would be some seating near a subtly designed landscape feature, such as large rocks, which would be both a natural feature and something for children to touch and explore. Recent shelter planting along the nearby road edge will help provide a more intimate atmosphere.

The area along the Mākara Road edge is comparatively level and it was, until recently, to be developed for burials. Geotechnical investigations found it to be unsuitable. It is now proposed to use the area for commemorative tree planting graves (see 3.2.2.3). This use would visually enhance the approach to Mākara village and provide an opportunity to restore indigenous lowland forest species that are now rare, such as swamp maire. The landscape plan should provide guidance on layout, species and the development of access to the site.

Introducing more wildflowers and plants of significance to denominational and cultural groups in areas that are unsuited for graves is suggested for investigation for the following reasons:

- The seasonal interest would be an added attraction for visitors
- Patches of relatively informal wildflower meadow would be in keeping with the countryside setting
- It may be possible to reduce the frequency of mowing maintenance on areas between the developed lawn cemetery areas
- Visitors could be encouraged to pick flowers and foliage for placement on graves as an alternative to plastic flowers.



Some wildflowers have already naturalised, as in the natural burials area depicted. The feasibility of the idea would need to be investigated, including identifying suitable areas, seeking advice from council's ecology and horticultural teams on suitable non-invasive species and how best to establish and maintain meadows, implications of the maintenance regime for staff and potential fire risk.

4.3.3 Natural environment

1. Protect and restore freshwater ecology in the streams by maintaining and enhancing native riparian buffer vegetation.
2. Manage weeds, pest animals and forest restoration efforts in accordance with *Our Natural Capital Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan*.
3. Monitor the exotic tree planting in the natural areas of the cemetery and allow to age and fall naturally, subject to remedial work where necessary for safety.
4. Continue to manage the areas under Permanent Forest Sink Initiative covenants for carbon sequestration and investigate the potential to register additional areas.
5. Encourage and support community participation in weed and pest animal control, restoration planting and ecological monitoring on existing cemetery and new cemetery land.

Explanation

The maps at the end of this section show the areas of land that have been developed or are suitable for cemetery purposes and the substantial areas of other land that is unsuitable for cemetery use. The other land comprises several gullies and watercourses, including part of North Mākara Stream, steep hillsides and some low-lying areas on both sides of Mākara Road. Apart from the area leased for grazing on the east side of Mākara Road, most of this land is regenerating to native vegetation. The native regeneration is more advanced in the water courses and gullies and south-facing slopes. The more exposed steep hillsides have mainly reverted to gorse from former pasture and native regeneration is starting to come through. The gullies within the cemetery contain a mix of exotic conifer and eucalyptus planting, native regeneration and weedy growth, including pampas grass and wildling pines. Rabbits are a particular problem, noted by visitors, as they dig into the lawn areas above graves. Currently, 19.9 hectares of land is registered for carbon sequestration and there is potential for more areas to be registered, especially on the grazing land if the existing lease were to end.

The land that is not suitable for cemetery use, has existing and potential biodiversity value, particularly in the North Mākara Stream gully where forest regeneration is more advanced. The vegetation also provides ecosystem services by protecting water and soil values on riparian or steep land and storing carbon. Managing these areas also holds the potential to enhance ecological connectivity with the Outer Green Belt, especially up the North Mākara Stream Valley but also up to Mākara Peak where an ecological restoration programme is occurring within the mountain bike park. Ultimately, the inclusion of these areas in the Outer Green could be considered.

Currently the ecological management of these areas comes within the scope of the city-wide restoration planting, pest animal and weed management programmes. Little has been specifically planned in respect of the cemetery to date, pending decisions on the future of the extra land. About 500 to 1000 native

plants are supplied from the Council nursery, which are planted in the natural burials area and on other sites in the gullies and banks around the edge of the developed cemetery area. This latter planting serves a dual purpose of replacing gorse with a more attractive green edge as well as enhancing biodiversity. There is potential to further plan the weed control and native planting to specifically target problem areas and enhance existing areas of native regeneration with longer-lived tall species.

4.3.4 Heritage recognition and protection

Actions

- a) Research the history of Mākara Cemetery to help identify its heritage values and clarify the terms of historic plot purchases.
- b) Prepare a Mākara Cemetery heritage conservation plan to protect the identified heritage values, including a long-term maintenance plan linked to the landscape management plan (see 4.3.2 action (b)), with guidance as appropriate.

Explanation

Mākara Cemetery is the newest of the Council's cemeteries but it is now more than 50 years old and already reflects the history of its era - the landscape-lawn style of cemetery design, for instance. It is likely that, as at other cemeteries, there are burials of historic interest. The ongoing burials will be the heritage of the future. The proposed research should cover the pre-colonial history of the land and any special significance it may hold for mana whenua. A research project with mana whenua is proposed (see 3.3.2.3 action (a)). Another important aspect of the research is to trace past policies and the deeds of interment that were used at Mākara Cemetery. The 2003 management plan suggested lawn cemeteries could be developed in future by 'moving the plaques to a memorial setting and creating amenity areas (lawns, plantings and flower beds)¹⁷. While there are no plans to do this in the immediate

future, the future management of the plaque lawn and plots sold for specified time periods has been identified for the next management plan review (see 3.2.2.2) and the relevant historical information would then be useful.

4.3.5 Visitor experience

1. Encourage recreational use and enjoyment of Mākara Cemetery as a peaceful open space in a rural, while managing potentially conflicting activities.
2. Consider the potential for developing:
 - i. A short loop walk at the cemetery, and
 - ii. Recreational track connections to the Outer Green Belt.
3. Inform cemetery customers of the facilities available for funeral services at Mākara village.

Action

- a) Investigate, in consultation with the funeral sector and Greater Wellington Regional Council, the adequacy of the existing transport service to and from Mākara Cemetery, awareness of the service and options for an increased service if required.

Explanation

Feedback about Mākara Cemetery from the small community survey carried out for this plan was generally positive. Respondents consistently commented on the peaceful surroundings, its well organised layout and tidy condition, though there were also comments about it being bare and windswept. Visitors generally found it easy to find plot locations and to drive around.

The main issues from the survey included difficulty in accessing some graves due to steep sloping ground, the need for more seats, windblown rubbish, the distance to get to the cemetery and difficulty in seeing the entrance on Mākara Road when approaching from the city side. As discussed in section 3.4.2.2, there are constraints on improving access to individual graves but the cemetery staff will provide help on request,

however any feasible improvements and provision of more seating will be considered under section 4.3.2. action (a), as will the potential for more tree planting. Most rubbish comes from grave decorations that have come loose. For this reason, it is not an easy issue to manage as families can be upset when decorations disappear, but staff regularly gather up windblown items to keep the cemetery tidy (see 3.2.2.3 for more about managing decorations). The Mākara Road entrance is well sign-posted further up the road but it is still easily missed. Keeping the roadside vegetation cut back further on the cemetery side and installing a sign or landmark feature like a prominent marker post on the more visible opposite side of the road could be options.

Many visitors to Mākara Cemetery are the more recently bereaved, as this is where most interments take place. It is also used for recreation. The local community uses it for walking, dog walking and horse riding. Horse riding is permitted provided it is confined to the roadway and riders pick up all horse manure (see Part 5, Rules). Visitors appear to appreciate the horses and sight of other farm animals on adjacent land as part of the countryside atmosphere. People from further afield also visit for recreational reasons, including those tracing family history and road cyclists on the popular Ohariu/Mākara round trip, who detour through the cemetery. There is potential for less compatible uses, such as mountain bikers venturing off the roadways. See the Rules section for how this is managed. The existing horse grazing leases are to continue in the meantime as a means of supporting horse riding as a recreational activity.

The possibility of developing an outdoor non-denominational area suitable for funeral has been suggested as, unlike Karori Cemetery, there is no non-denominational chapel at Mākara Cemetery. This will be considered as part of the master planning of the new cemetery (see 3.1.2.3). There are also facilities close by in Mākara village - St Matthias' (Anglican) Church, St Patrick's (non-denominational)

Church and the Mākara Hall. The latter two are managed for hire by the Mākara Community Centre Association. The hall is suitable for people to gather after an interment or memorial unveiling for refreshments.

Mākara Cemetery's distance from the city is a barrier for those who don't have their own transport or are not confident to drive over Mākara Hill. There is no public transport to the cemetery. Currently, funeral homes collaborate to provide a monthly service but a review of that service and whether it is reaching those who need it is required to ensure the cemetery is accessible for all.

The extra land not required for cemetery use (described in section 4.3.3) has strategic recreational value for the future in the Council's wider open space network - specifically to develop recreational routes that would link Mākara Village with the Outer Green Belt. The Open Space Access Plan identifies at a broad scale the opportunity to develop an East-West connection from Mākara Peak (in the Outer Green Belt) to the Mākara Coast via South Karori Stream and then back to Mākara Village. Links back from the village over the cemetery land could make the proposal into a complete loop route. There is potential to negotiate access over the private land between the cemetery and Mākara Peak Mountain Bike Park or to develop a route on the east side of Mākara Road up the North Mākara Stream valley to the Skyline Track on the Outer Green Belt via the stream's esplanade strip. Both options are noted as longer-term opportunities for the future. In the shorter term, a shorter loop walk could be developed on the steep land immediately above the cemetery, using and extending an existing 4WD access track and potentially extending across any new land the Council may acquire to expand the cemetery.

4.3.6 Community and partnerships

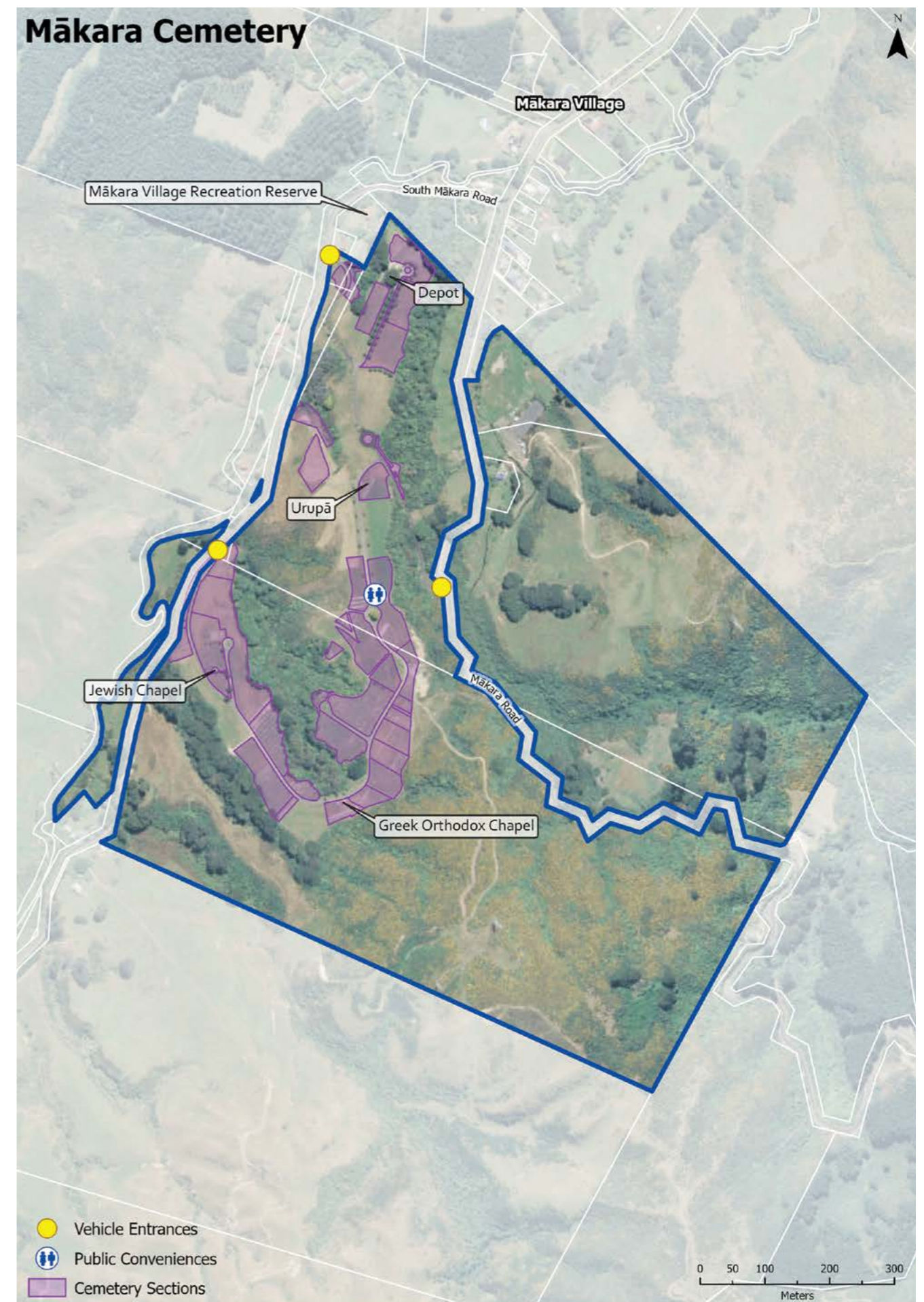
1. Continue to work with iwi on the ongoing management of the Ngā Iwi o Te Motu Urupā.
2. Work with the Mākara Community Centre Association and the Anglican Diocese to ensure the availability of facilities that complement the Mākara Cemetery services are well-known.
3. Encourage members of the Mākara community to become involved in volunteer activities at Mākara Cemetery.

Action

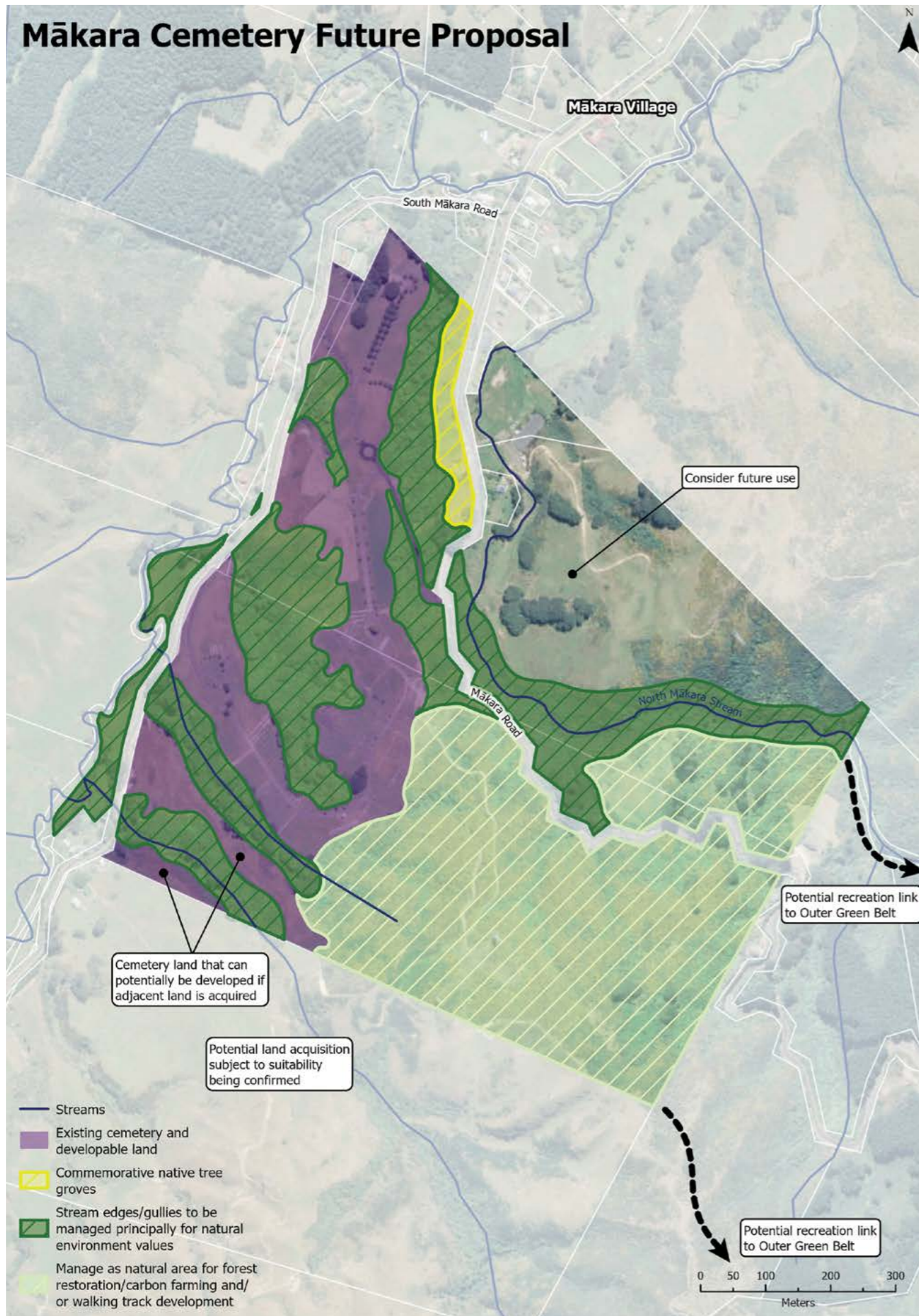
- a) Consult mana whenua and the wider Māori community about holding an annual karakia event at the Ngā Iwi o Te Motu Urupā during Matariki.

Explanation

The Ngā Iwi o Te Motu Urupā was opened in 2011. It was developed in consultation with local iwi, mana whenua, kaumātua and the Department of Corrections. The urupā was named by local iwi, Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o te Ika a Māui. The gateway carvings were designed by Taranaki carver Bryce Manu and carved by prisoners from the Māori Focus Unit at Rimutaka Prison. The concept of holding an annual karakia at the urupā was suggested during engagement for this plan and will be further investigated.



Mākara Cemetery Future Proposal



Mākara Cemetery Land Schedule



Mākara Cemetery Land Schedule

Mgmt Plan schedule #	WCC site #	Legal description	CT ref.	Land area	Reserve description	Gazette ref.	District plan zoning	Notes / Actions needed
M-1	0084	Pt Lot 1 DP 16265	776/40	1.7990 ha	Not a reserve		Open Space B	Held as Wellington City Council freehold land. The district plan identifies a hazard (fault line) over this area of the cemetery. The Mākara branch of the Wellington Pony Club leases this land. Pony club to maintain all fences, posts, gates, ditches, drains and other structures, only allowed to keep horses, remove noxious weeds
M-2	0084	Lot 2 DP 16265	579/201	0.3957 ha	Not a reserve		Open Space B	Held as council freehold land. About 2,000m2 within this land parcel is leased for grazing, subject to two months' notice.
M-3	0084	Pt Sec 20, Mākara District	595/252	35.7050 ha	Not a reserve		Open Space B	Held as Wellington City Council freehold land. Parts of this site are leased to the Mākara branch of the Wellington Pony Club.
M-4	0084	Pt Sec 18, Mākara District	341/261	2.1246 ha	Not a reserve		Open Space B	Held as council freehold land. Part of this site is leased to the Mākara branch of the Wellington Pony Club.
M-5	0084	Pt Sec 18 and 21, Mākara District and Lots 2 and 5 and Pt Lot 1 DP 267	50D/128	42.8883 ha	Not a reserve		Open Space B	Wellington City Council freehold, held for cemetery purposes. Taken under the Public Works Act 1928, NZ Gazette 1952/1517. A Transpower transmission line crosses this site, including two power pylons. A Meteorological Service of New Zealand weather station is also located near the southeast corner of this site. Part of this land parcel, in the southwest corner, is leased for grazing, subject to two months' notice.