

Our Ref DOIA 24-349

12 July 2024

 [@awapress.co.nz](mailto: @awapress.co.nz)

Wellington Office

Radio New Zealand House
155 The Terrace
PO Box 5501
Wellington 6145
New Zealand
T 0800 665 463
F +64 4 472 2244
E customersupport@linz.govt.nz
W www.linz.govt.nz

Tēnā koe 

Response to your official information request

Thank you for your official information request received on 20 June 2024 for information regarding the proposed reserve at Watts Peninsula. Please find below our responses to your questions.

Background

Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) is working closely with the Department of Conservation (DOC), Te Arawhiti, and the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust (PNBST) on future arrangements for the site. As the land is within the rohe of Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika (Taranaki Whānui) it's important their aspirations for the area are properly considered.

This iwi-Crown working group is considering options that will ensure the historical, cultural and ecological significance of the land is recognised and protected. Advice on agreed options will be provided to Ministers for consideration in the coming months.

While these future arrangements are being considered, LINZ is focused on managing the land on behalf of the Crown.

1) *Has Watt's Peninsula been declared a reserve under the Reserves Act 1977?*

The land currently sits with LINZ under the Public Works Act so it has not yet been declared a reserve under the Reserves Act 1977.

2) *If so, under what classification?*

LINZ does not have a statutory role in classifying reserves, this responsibility would sit with the Department of Conservation.

- 3) *If it has not been declared a reserve, please provide all documents and correspondence concerning the possible designation of Watt's Peninsula as a reserve under the Reserves Act 1977.*

LINZ has undertaken a number of assessments that may be useful inputs into the possible designation of Watts Peninsula under the Reserves Act 1997; these assessments are published [here](#)¹ on the LINZ website.

However, because LINZ has no statutory role in classifying reserves, LINZ has not undertaken any specific work to determine the designation or classification of the proposed reserve at Watts Peninsula. Therefore, I must refuse your request under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act as the information does not exist.

- 4) *If it has not been declared a reserve, what steps have been taken to protect and preserve Watt's Peninsula as a distinctive national destination?*

LINZ is responsible for improving the area's safety while future arrangements for the site are developed. Since 2019 LINZ has been undertaking ongoing hazard reduction work, maintenance and site management of the 72ha area. You can read more about the work LINZ has undertaken and planned [here](#)² on the LINZ website.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact ministerialsupport@linz.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note, this response letter outlining our decision on your request, **with your personal details withheld**, and any attached documentation will be published on the Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand website. This is likely to be published by Click or tap to enter a date.

Nāku noa, nā



Sonya Wikitera
Head of Crown Property

¹ <https://www.linz.govt.nz/our-work/crown-property-management/projects-and-hazard-management/watts-peninsula/watts-peninsula-and-mt-crawford>

² <https://www.linz.govt.nz/our-work/crown-property-management/projects-and-hazard-management/watts-peninsula/watts-peninsula-hazard-reduction-work>