



**Western  
Bay of Plenty**  
District Council

# **Arawa Road recreation opportunities decision story**

April 2023

# Introduction

**Arawa Road and Penelope Place is a small settlement in Pongakawa located off State Highway 2, with approximately 70 homes adjacent to orchards and dairy farms.**

The Arawa Road Reserve is an unformed paper road often used by the local community and grazed by an adjacent landowner.

During 2022 we engaged with the Arawa Road/Penelope Place community to see what recreation

opportunities they would like to see provided.

This was in response to feedback received through development of the Te Puke-Maketu Reserve Management Plan in 2021/2022.



# Engagement with the community

Between 10 February and 14 March 2022 we asked the community for their ideas on the provision of recreation opportunities in the local area. Letters were sent to the residents of Arawa Road and Penelope Place with a short survey.

18 responses were received with support for an increase in recreation and open space provision in the neighbourhood.

A feasibility study was undertaken to get a better understanding of where improvements could be made to increase recreation and open space opportunities based on the survey feedback, and estimated costs.





# Feedback on draft plan

In August 2022, a draft concept plan was adopted for community engagement with ideas of what could be developed, mainly utilising the existing road reserve.

## This included:

- A “rural inspired” playground using natural materials for play features
- BMX trail or “pump track”, utilising existing soil in the area
- Enhance the road reserve as a walking and cycling trail
- Potential for a community garden

## Other elements included:

- Re-purpose the Arawa Road reserve into a linear park
- Historical and cultural information
- Directional signage
- Planting
- Extending the walking and cycle trail to Wharere Road, Kaikokopu Road and Waerenga Road

Feedback on the draft concept plan was received from 27 September to 21 October. Letters were sent to Arawa Road/Penelope Place residents inviting them to have their say. A community “have your say” drop-in event was held at the end of Arawa Road on 9 October 2022. This gave the local community an opportunity to see the plans up close, talk with Council staff, and share their thoughts, ideas or concerns in detail.

# 38 pieces of feedback were received

This feedback consisted of the following:

- **15** responses through the online survey
- **Four** feedback forms and emails
- **19** comments from the Have Your Say event on 9 October 2022

Most of the feedback supported the provision of recreation opportunities as shown on the draft concept plan.

management of the road reserve which have been taken on board in the final concept plan.

There were also several improvements suggested, such as removal of the community garden from the concept plan and improved

Feedback, findings, and recommendations were presented for decisions and adoption of a final concept plan on 7 March 2023.

## Key decisions

**Following community feedback and input, Council agreed to adopt the final concept plan, and to the following actions. This recognised the community support for improving recreation experiences in this area.**

In the short term (next one-two years), we will enhance the use of the road reserve for recreation purposes including:

- Development of natural play features
- Maintain the existing pumice track for walking and cycling, including periodic mowing and removal of grazing
- Working with the adjacent property owner to realign the fence with the correct road reserve boundary

We have included funding in the proposed Annual Plan 2023/24 for these actions to be progressed.

In the medium to long term (three + years), we will undertake a project to further enhance the road reserve as a recreation and ecological corridor, with planting and wider walking and cycling linkages towards Pukehina, and a potential pump track. This will be included for consideration in the 2024-34 Long Term Plan.

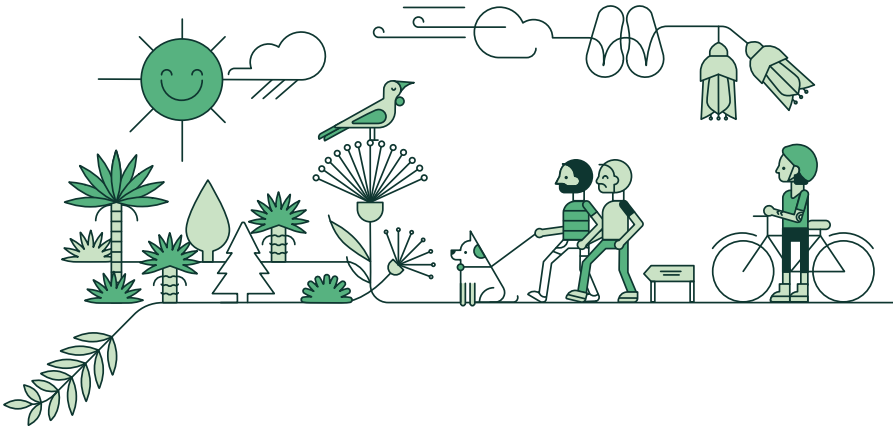
# Arawa Road recreation opportunities plan

To view the final concept plan, please visit our [Have Your Say](#) page.

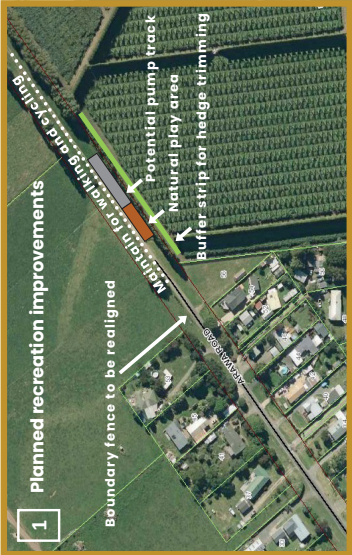
For further information on the community feedback provided to the draft concept plan and Council's response to this, please see our report to the Strategy and Policy Committee on 7 March 2023.

## Next steps

A staged approach of implementation is intended to be used, with the first stage being the development of the play features, planned for 2023/2024.



## Overview of recreation improvements





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Te Kaunihera a rohe mai i  
Ngā Kuri-a-Whārei ki  
Otamarakau ki te Uru

**[westernbay.govt.nz](http://westernbay.govt.nz)**



**PUBLIC ROAD**  
**ARAWA ROAD**  
(Unmaintained Public Road)  
Vehicle access may not be practical at all times  
Take extreme care  
Arawa Road is grazed by stock from time to time.  
Take care around livestock and please leave gates  
as they find them.  
© Western Bay of Plenty District Council

# ARAWA ROAD RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Western Bay of Plenty District Council

Context and Concept Plan

REV:02e

DATE: 20/02/2023



**THRIVE**  
SPACES & PLACES



## Summary of proposed upgrades to Arawa Road and surrounding areas

### Arawa Road Reserve

#### Recreation upgrade summary:

- Primary purpose of the road reserve will be a Recreation and Ecological linkage
- Resolve boundary via replacing fencing and hedging on correct boundary
- Trail upgrade: surfacing, signage, bridge structure across swale to Wharere Road and planting
- Removal of grazing
- Maintain existing pumice track for walking and cycling
- Natural Play area consisting of rustic natural play

### Penelope Place Stormwater Reserve

### Arawa Road upgrades summary (Summer 2022/23):

- Footpath provided on eastern side of road up to Penelope Place
- These plans separate to the upgrading of the road, culverts (road drainage) and footpath (with ongoing liaison between both plans)
- Remove and improve the bus shelter. Road works include repairing/painting bus shelter and installing it on a concrete pad
- SH Speed limit changes not within scope
- PW-31 Children Sign to be installed on Arawa Road
- Road works include minor seal widening between SH and Penelope Place to a width of 5.5m
- Turning head and parking not within scope.

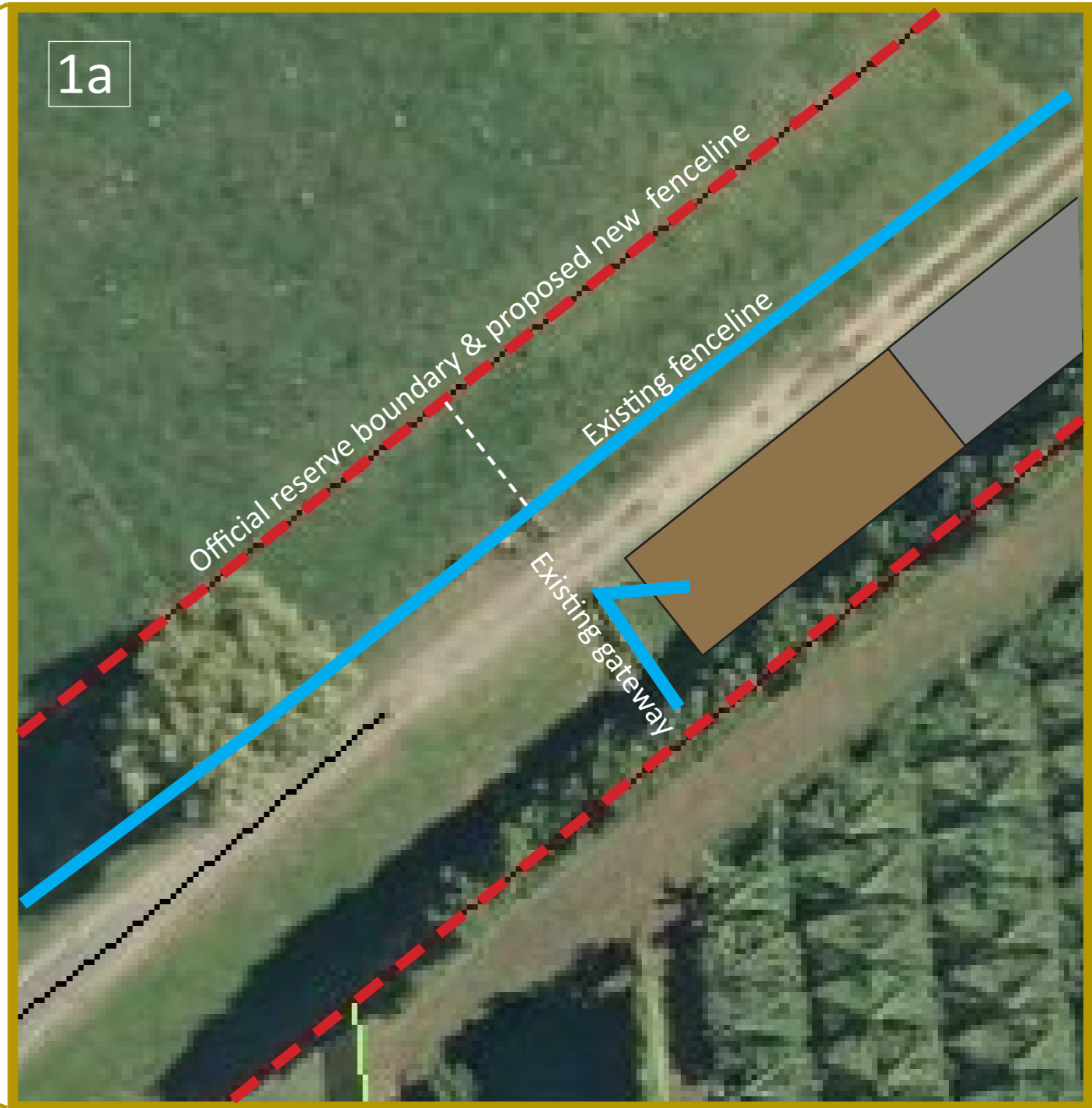
# Overview of recreation improvements



# Further detail on neighbourhood reserve and boundary adjustment



Map above: Proposed 'rural style' neighbourhood reserve area showing the boundary of the road reserve in dashed red lines.

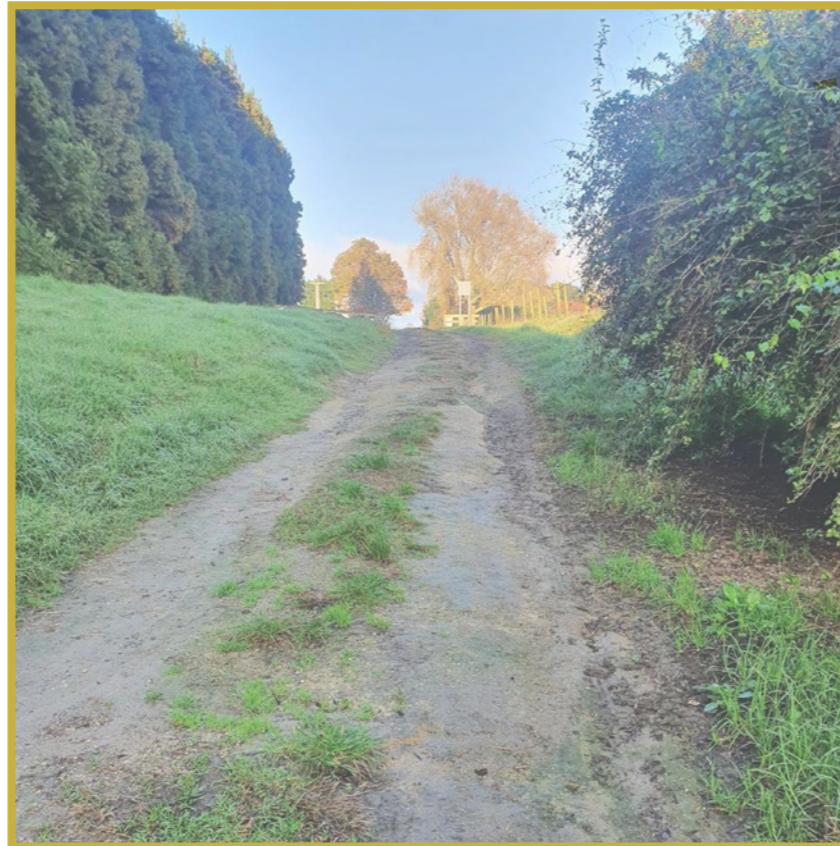


Map above: The existing gateway and fenceline is shown in blue. The proposed new fenceline is the same location as the official reserve boundary as identified on Western Bay of Plenty Mapi. A gate can be located to the north of the existing gateway allowing large machinery to pass through when necessary but remaining otherwise closed.

# Potential neighbourhood reserve features



## Potential area for pump track and natural play features



### Potential pump track



- Plants
- All ages
- Natural
- Easy access
- Seating
- Grass
- All abilities.

### Natural play features



- Seating
- Slide
- Rocks
- Social hub
- Natural materials
- Lockable gate
- Easy access
- Cultural signage
- Historical information
- Timber
- Rural aesthetic
- Community involvement.

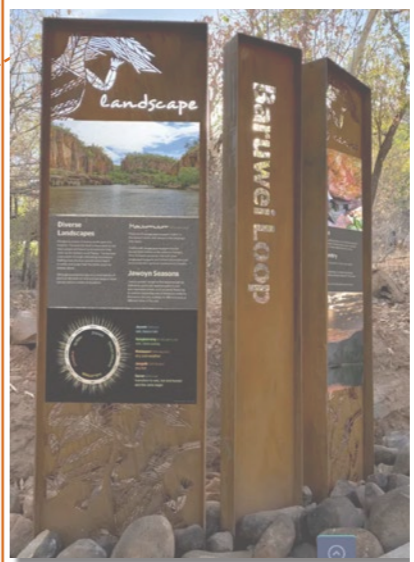
# Potential future recreation (walking and cycling) upgrade features

## Potential upgrades: shared pathway connection to Wharere Road



**Note:** Assume the surface of the upgraded walkway / cycleway will be finished in limestone.

### Potential signage



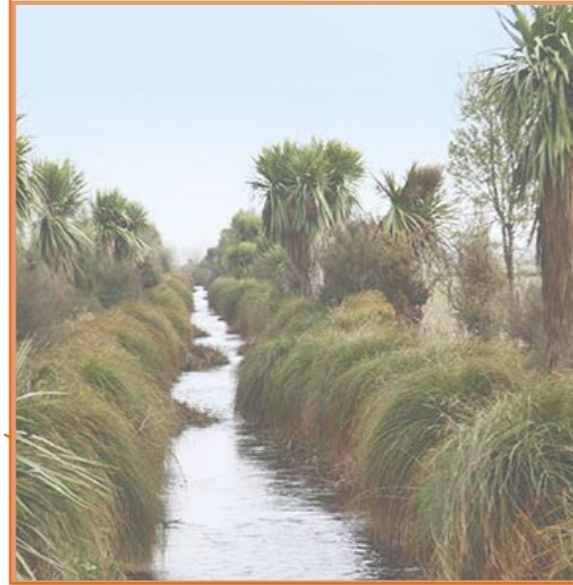
- Natural materials
- Durable / strong
- Easy to read
- Culturally inclusive
- Informative.

### Potential seating styles



- Seating
- Rocks
- Natural
- Easy access
- Timber
- Rural aesthetic
- Concrete.

### Water quality improvement



- Native plants
- Filtering
- Shading
- Rocks for water aeration
- Nutrient extractors.

