



## **Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust nine-month report to Manawatū District Council: June 2025 to March 2026**

### **Background**

This Statement of Intent covers the year 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026:

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Statement of Intent is to

- a) State publicly the activities and intentions of this Council Controlled Organisation for the year and the objective to which those activities will contribute; and
- b) Provide an opportunity for shareholders<sup>1</sup> to influence the direction of the organisation; and
- c) Provide a basis for the accountability of the directors<sup>2</sup> to their shareholders for the performance of the organisation.

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE COUNCIL CONTROLLED ORGANISATION**

1. Section 59 of the Local Government Act 2002 provides:

Principal objective of a council-controlled organisation

- 1) The principal objective of a council-controlled organisation is to
  - a. Achieve the objectives of its shareholders, both commercial and non-commercial, as specified in the statement of intent; and
  - b. Be a good employer; and
  - c. Exhibit a sense of social and environmental responsibility by having regard to the interests of the community in which it operates and by endeavouring to accommodate or encourage these when able to do so; and
  - d. If the council-controlled organisation is a council-controlled trading organisation, conduct its affairs in accordance with sound business practice.
- 2) In subsection 1) b. good employer has the same meaning as in clause 36 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

The overall result Council strives for is - Our people delivering great service and facilities to our community. AFKPT as a Council Controlled Organisation is seen as an extension of Council striving towards this outcome.

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<sup>1</sup> 'Shareholders' include any partners, joint venture partners, members or other persons holding equity securities in relation to the organisation. In this case the shareholders will be the Mayor and the Councillors of the Manawatū District Council.

<sup>2</sup> 'Directors' and the 'Board' include trustees, managers or office holders (however described in the organisation).

## **NATURE AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES**

### **Nature**

The park / forest is classified as Scenic A reserve. Scenic A Reserve preserves native flora and fauna as much as possible. The Trust is required to govern the maintenance and restoration of the park / forest as per the Reserves Act (RA) stipulations.

### **Scope**

Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust is a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO), accessing funding and providing governance for: long-term planning for reforestation as near as possible to 150 years ago, planting, biodiversity, hydrology, infrastructure and education.

## **PURPOSES OF AWAHURI FOREST KITCHENER PARK TRUST**

The purposes of the Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust as identified in its Trust Deed are:

- a) To assist in the ecological restoration, management and enhancement of the land at Kitchener Park and for this purpose to maintain a five-year plan which, with an annual budget, will be made available to the Settlor for its approval prior to the commencement of each financial year;
- b) To steer and co-ordinate the raising of funds to assist the restoration, management, enhancement, promotion and further development of the land at Kitchener Park;
- c) To encourage community access to Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park, and foster knowledge of and interest in the ecological restoration activity at the park;
- d) To ensure the continued protection and restoration of Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park where possible and restore biodiversity values;
- e) To create a safe haven for native plant and animal species, controlled for plant and animal pests;
- f) To collaborate with other relevant organisations and individuals to reintroduce locally extinct or threatened plant and animal species, to ensure their long-term survival;
- g) To develop self-sustaining threatened species populations which will act as source populations for the creation of future community restoration projects in the Manawatu District;
- h) To care for some special collections, including the podocarp, epiphyte and lichen collections presently established at Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park;
- i) To support scientific and historic research of the Kitchener Park ecosystem or components thereof;
- j) To educate the general public, especially school children, about the need to conserve and protect native forest environments in New Zealand.

This Statement of Intent recognises the large number of purposes detailed in the trust deed and concentrates on the five expectations detailed in the Statement of Expectation, given the number of trustees and resource available.

## STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND PRACTICES

1. Financial statements are in accordance with the Public Benefit Entity Simple format – Accrual (not for profit)
2. Comply with the financial obligations of the Local Government Act 2002 with respect to CCO financial reporting
3. Comply with the Charitable Act 2005
4. Approval of payments and monthly sign off of all activities by all Trustees
5. To apply sound financial practices, act prudently and transparently, recognising the Trust receives significant funding from Manawatu Ratepayers.

## PERFORMANCE TARGETS - Six monthly report June to December 2025 and first quarter of 2026 (January – March 2026)

**Expectation 1. Maintain the forest / park, within the existing boundary, as an area of unspoilt nature (scenic reserve) for the benefit of the community and visitors.**

Description	Starting Point	Target / Output	
To continue pest plant programme	2020	<b>Zero density control of Old Man’s Beard by 2027</b> <u>June 2025 – December 2025</u> 2025-26 continue monitoring the whole forest for seedling infestations	<b>Ontrack</b>
		Over the past three summers, an intensive elimination effort has been undertaken. Currently, only one major area of infestation remains, located in the Awahuri paddock near the stream. Additionally, the council has begun allocating resources to the Hansons and Wastewater Treatment areas, which is expected to further reduce the number of new seedlings appearing along the sections of forest nearest Kawakawa Road.	<b>OnTrack</b>
		<u>January 2026 – March 2026</u> A major effort is underway to eradicate Old Man’s Beard. New seedlings are emerging at the front of the Forest near Henson’s Bush. Green by Nature (GBN), funded by MDC and directed by Horizons, is addressing the issue.	<b>OnTrack</b>
		<b>Manage Bind weed, Jasmine and dock weed by 2027</b> <u>June 2025 – December 2025</u>	<b>On Track</b>

		<p>2025-26 continue management of new plantings and summer blitz in Awahuri Paddock. Managing Bind weed will need to continue annually.</p> <p><u>January 2026 – March 2026</u> Monitoring continued over the first quarter.</p> <p><b>Achieve control mechanism for Phragmites by 2028</b> <u>June 2025 – December 2025</u> 25-26:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Management to continue at optimal levels within the Trust’s resources. We found unexpectantly; areas we have completed three treatment on are showing significant signs of Phragmites being compromised. This has impacted on how we move forward. The techniques that have been developed now require validation and reinforcement, with the aim of establishing a monitoring programme over the next few years.</li> <li>b. Priority for research &amp; development succession to ensure knowledge is retained and shared. Trust to communicate these changes and updates to Councils and other entities in early new year by holding and event to update all</li> <li>c. Continue to lobby for national recognition as a pest plant and funded eradication across NZ. Now Horizon and other entities are working on developing a programme of Research on a national basis. They are accessing a MBIE fund to take this project forward outside of the Trust. See note below.</li> </ol> <p><u>January 2026 – March 2026</u> Phragmites workshop held Tuesday 17 February 2026 at Awahuri Forest– 26 external participants attended. However, a further eight were not able to attend due to weather-related commitments (Auckland based) – none from Taranaki, only two from Wellington. Good representation from Regional Councils, DoC, MPI and four community groups. There is now a solid network of approximately 70 across New Zealand and 18 participants had attended previous events.</p>	<p><b>OnTrack</b></p> <p><b>Ahead</b></p> <p><b>Ahead</b></p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trustee 1,100</li> <li>• Stakeholders' 200</li> </ul>	<p>Maintain relationships and measure the resulting significant 'in kind' support Trustees Stakeholders 120 (much of this around Phragmites)</p> <p><i>January 2026 – March 2026</i> Trustee Hours this quarter – 55 hours</p>	<b>On Track</b>
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**Expectation 3. Plan to develop further walking and cycling tracks within the forest / park to connect to the “loop track concept” described in Council’s Walking & Cycling Strategy.**

Description	Starting Point	Target / Output	
Awahuri Paddock all weather maintenance track	May 2025	<p><i>June 2025 – December 2025</i> Permits approved Dec 2025, with completion expected by June 2026 <i>Note MDC funded activity—</i></p> <p>The permits have been submitted and, as far as the Trust knows, accepted. This work and other work in Horizons Regional Council has been delayed due processes between the internal issues inside Horizons Regional Council who are the controllers of the Streams and River activities. This project is within the Stream channel jurisdiction.</p> <p><i>1 January 2026 – March 2026</i> Nothing further progress this quarter.</p>	<p><b>Behind</b></p> <p><b>Behind</b></p>
Work with Council on a cycling track design	Not yet commenced	<p><i>June 2025 – December 2025</i> Understand MDC’s vision and work together on a cycling track design. Keep dialogue open with Council, review and have input into relevant plans.</p> <p><i>January 2026 – March 2026</i> The Trust is available to work with the Council on the Cycling track design.</p>	<p><b>Not Happened</b></p> <p><b>Available to discuss as needed</b></p>

**Expectation 4. Minimise future flooding impacts to the forest / park through appropriate design and planting.**

Description	Starting Point	Target / Output	
<p>Take opportunities to provide feedback to Council and Horizons concerning flood management activity. Maintain relationship with Horizons</p>	<p>February 2024 infrastructure for wetland planting.</p>	<p><u>June 2025 – December 2025</u> Report on feedback provided to Council and Horizons.</p> <p>Horizons and council officers visited wetland to inspect plantings the 2025 winter was quite dry, and we didn't experience significant floods. The wetland and re-opened west side of the original channels worked well when we had two very small floods during winter months. New plant layout in Wetland and Forest west side all seems to be appropriate for wet and dry areas.</p>	<p><b>On Track</b></p>
	<p>Makino stream side re-modelling. Monitor and plan adaptations as required.</p>	<p>Keep monitoring floods infrastructure impacts in wetland and westside hydrology restoration, responding to any issues as required.</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p>
	<p>Initiated discussions on road flooding risks at the pump house corner Awahuri Rd</p>	<p>Continue discussions for Makino stream removal of willows over next 10 years and develop initial plan from flood observations.</p> <p>Progress talks with MDC and Horizons working to create a plan in preparation for the next LTP funding decisions.</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p>
		<p>Initial discussions with Parks team member. This project is beyond the total jurisdiction of the Forest and needs to include Horizons River management, MDC storm water and roading.</p>	<p><b>Behind</b></p>
		<p><u>January 2026 – March 2026</u> GBN continued with required plantings in the wetlands this quarter. Next quarter, their efforts will shift to maintaining and managing the wetlands area.</p>	<p><b>On Track</b></p>

		<p>Phragmites workshop held Tuesday 17 February 2026 at Awahuri Forest was a good opportunity to network with the community, in particular, Regional Councils, DoC, MPI and four community groups. Over 28 participants in attendance.</p> <p>Discussions held with Horizons about river management down to the Forest and upstream to Kowhai Park.</p>	
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**Expectation 5. Make the forest / park available for educational opportunities to increase awareness and extend knowledge.**

Description	Starting Point	Target / Output	
Continue to create forest plan species signage	22 species signs on 1 July 2025	<p><u>June 2025 – December 2025</u> Increase by 10 new signs by 1 July 2026</p> <p>Delayed No funding yet. This was originally funded by the Masonic group. It is unclear if they will fund more. Their attention moved to another project.</p> <p><u>January 2026 – March 2026</u> Signage is being quoted, possibility of using operational funding for new signage.</p>	<p><b>Behind</b></p> <p><b>In Progress</b></p>
Maintain and make available forest knowledge to the public	Website <a href="#">Home - Awahuri Forest - Kitchener Park</a>	<p><u>June 2025 – December 2025</u> Review and update website by June 2026 including increase of knowledge-based information</p> <p><u>January 2026 – March 2026</u> Will be discussed at a later date.</p>	<b>Behind</b>
Maintain the Trust's adult education programme	Adult education events occur	<p><u>June 2025 – December 2025</u> 3 x adult related engagements / events p.a. (may include university student visits)</p>	<b>On Track</b>

		Two completed by Dec 2025  <u>January 2026 – March 2026</u> Phragmites workshop held Tuesday 17 February 2026 at Awahuri Forest– 26 external participants attended.	<b>On Track</b>
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### **Phragmites Karka note**

#### June 2025 – December 2025

The lobbying at a national level included involvement of the Ombudsman, a presentation at the national biosecurity conference and an article produced by Professor Barry Scott. This concentrated effort has culminated in increased national and regional council focus. There is a fund in MBIE that only regional councils can access and we understand this is now being accessed by Horizons for more nationalised R&D on Phragmites and other related issues that pertain to weed management actions and legislation.

This means now the Trust basically needs to just work on getting funding to continue the Phragmites management within the Forest and continue with our own patch of work and R&D to feed into the national arena. We also still need to ensure the Makino stream is being managed by Horizons to ensure we reduce infestation into the forest, and the channel of the Makino is kept open and not blocked causing flooding.

The co-ordination role of recording and ensuring new infestations can now also be slowly moved out of the Trust to Horizons and other national bodies.

#### January 2026 – March 2026

AFKPT coordinated a Phragmites workshop on Tuesday 17 February 2026 at Awahuri Forest. Prof. Barry Scott attended the workshop and is now sharing insights gained from the event with the wider biodiversity/pest management network.

Chairperson (1 June 2025-31 December 2025)  
Bessie Nicholls

Chairperson (from 1 January 2026)  
Jo Morris

## AFKPT FORECAST STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

To Financial Year ending 30 June 2028

	SOI FY 2025 / 26 \$	SOI FY 2026 / 27 \$	SOI FY 2027 / 28 \$
<b>Income total</b>	<b>258,760</b>	<b>272,350</b>	<b>275,780</b>
MDC operational grant forecast	123,760	127,350	130,780
MDC Plant Care Funding	20,000	20,000	
Contestable / other grants	115,000	125,000	145,000
<b>Expenses total</b>	<b>254,760</b>	<b>267,546</b>	<b>274,749</b>
Biodiversity	235,760	246,546	251,749
Admin	19,000	21,000	23,000
<b>Operating Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>4,804</b>	<b>1,031</b>
Depreciation	1,000	1,800	1,500
<b>Net Surplus / deficit</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,004</b>	<b>(469)</b>

## AFKPT FORECAST STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

To Financial Year ending 30 June 2028

	SOI FY 2025/26 \$	SOI FY 2026/27 \$	SOI FY 2027/28 \$
<b>Assets total</b>	<b>111,000</b>	<b>127,500</b>	<b>156,500</b>
Cash and receivables	105,000	121,000	150,000
Assets	6,000	6,500	6,500
<b>Liabilities total</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>27,500</b>	<b>27,500</b>
GST	6,000	7,500	7,500
Trade creditors	16,000	20,000	20,000
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>89,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>129,000</b>
<b>Equity</b>	<b>89,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>129,000</b>
Accumulated Funds	86,000	96,996	129,469
Current Year Earnings	3,000	3,004	(469)

Note 1: Trust has few assets as all non-removable assets are transferred to MDC.

Note 2: Native Trees have no accounting value