



SUBMISSION ON THE PROPOSAL TO VEST A PART OF MORNING STAR BEACH RECREATION RESERVE NEAR QUEENSTOWN IN TE RŪNANGA O NGĀI TAHU BY KEEPING ARTHURS POINT'S ORIGINAL WILDLIFE (KAPOW).

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the recently notified proposal to vest approximately 0.8ha of the wider 41 ha Morning Star Recreation Reserve from the Department of Conservation (DOC) to Te Rūnanga O Ngāi Tahu (Te Rūnanga).

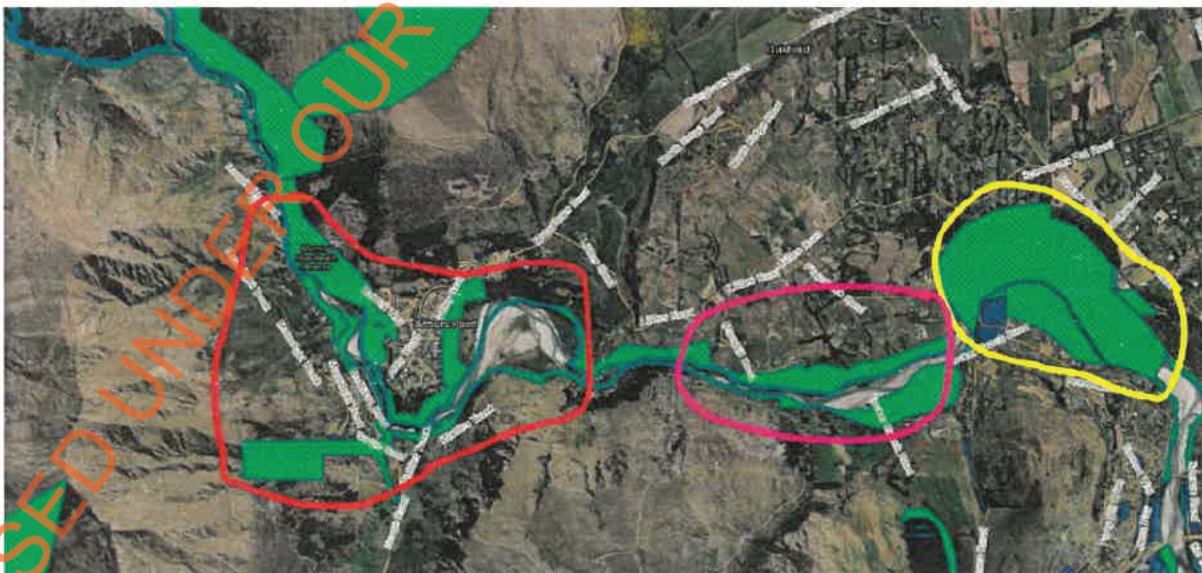
**Keeping Arthurs Point Original Wildlife (KAPOW)** is an active community conservation volunteer group. KAPOW was set up in 2017 by several Arthurs Point residents who had a shared vision to restore the native flora and fauna in and around Arthurs Point. Our core group is 10-12 volunteers and our community planting days are attended by over 50 local residents and school children.

KAPOW supports the proposal to vest part of the reserve within Te Rūnanga. KAPOW would like to be heard in support of our submission.

This submission gives a background on the conservation efforts, projects and vision that KAPOW has for the Morning Star Recreation Reserve and the wider area.

#### **KAPOW's Conservation Vision**

The public conservation land of Arthurs Point that KAPOW has an interest in extends from the western border of Morning Star Reserve, including the Oxenbridge Recreation Reserve, down to 'Big Beach' which is administered by LINZ. The area subject to the Arthurs Point draft Ecological Restoration Plan is outlined in red in the image below. The area in yellow is the Tuckers Beach Wildlife reserve that is currently undergoing significant ecological restoration, and work is underway by the Tuckers Beach Residents Association for and ecological restoration plan for the area in pink.



The boundaries of Morning Star Reserve are strategic for wilding conifer and weed control as it is a seed source for wilding spread into the backcountry of Mt Dewar/Devils Creek. The riverbanks of the whole of the Lower Shotover River from this point are strategic due to downstream effects of woody weed dispersal into the Shotover River.

There are remnant stands of mountain beech, mountain totara and grey shrubland in Morning Star Reserve, but these are increasingly threatened by woody weeds. The riverbanks are particularly over-run with weed pests, significantly reducing the amenity of a well frequented public recreation area.

KAPOW believes there are significant benefits for restoring these reserves, including high community engagement due to being easily accessible and regularly frequented by locals.

### **Existing Environmental Projects**

The Wakatipu Wilding Control Group (WCG) carried out an operation to remove 29 hectares of wilding conifers from the Morning Star Block in August 2020. Most recently large areas of conifers have been cleared in the Morning Star Recreation Reserve to preserve Beech Forest and remnants of native scrub under threat from wilding conifers and a logging crew is currently completing the clearance work. Ground control has been carried out from Big Beach to Tuckers Beach with further plans to carry on in the Arthurs Point Shotover river area and move further into the residential lifestyle blocks. The WCG strategy is to eventually remove all wilding pines on public land in Arthurs Point.

KAPOW has 200 predator traps distributed in the surrounds of Arthurs Point (refer image in Attachment 1). KAPOW has fundraised for all of these traps, and in addition to the KAPOW trapping lines, we have also encouraged many residents to have a backyard trap.

In 2018 KAPOW commenced a community planting project, supported by the Wakatipu Reforestation Trust (WRT), within a 2.5 hectare plateau of the Morning Star Reserve. Over 2500 plants have been planted to date, and in 2021 Queenstown Primary School adopted an area within the reserve for their own planting and environmental education programme.

Photos of the local community conservation efforts led by KAPOW are included with this submission as **Attachment 1**.

KAPOW are also currently resurrecting the old DOC nursery on Morning Star track for small scale community propagation using local seed sources to supplement the plants provided by WRT.

Most recently KAPOW have initiated an 'Adopt-a-Plot' maintenance programme in the Morning Star Reserve where local residents, families or businesses adopt an area of the new plantings and they take on the weed maintenance of these plants. The staff at Shotover Jet have been really supportive of this initiative and have their own large Adopt-a-Plot.

KAPOW holds a DOC Community Agreement for conservation work within the Morning Star Reserve with final expiry in 2029. DOC has endorsed the work KAPOW is doing, including recently supporting an application by KAPOW and the APCA to seek funds to prepare an ecological restoration plan.

### **Ecological Restoration Plan**

In 2021 KAPOW and APCA jointly applied for funding from the Lotteries Commission for an ecological restoration plan for the conservation land in and around Arthurs Point. We were

successful in this application, receiving \$22,000 and we subsequently engaged Wildlands Consultants to commence the plan. The reasons for seeking a plan were:

- Local community engagement via APCA resident surveys have consistently demonstrated native replanting as a community priority.
- Recent community engagement by WCG regarding wilding removal within close environs of Arthurs Point was met with considerable local resistance due to the absence of a plan for the land post wilding removal. The overwhelming message was that the local community would like to see a plan in place for native restoration and weed maintenance before wildings are removed.
- DOC carried out an internal scoping study in 2020 to identify Wakatipu community led projects suitable for 1 Billion Trees (1BT) government funding. From a list of 10+ projects, Morning Star Reserve was shortlisted as 1 of 3 significant projects, which warranted further investigation for landscape scale reforestation through 1 Billion Trees government funding. With DOC support, KAPOW sought to submit for funding but did not meet 1BT funding criteria due to the need for a comprehensive Ecological plan prior to funding requests. (KAPOW sought to engage with iwi through Aukaha and Te ao Mārama at this time).

The site surveys have been completed and once the draft findings have been provided to KAPOW, the next step is to reach out again to iwi to have the conversation about how iwi would like to be involved in the plan. DOC and LINZ will also be partners to the plan.

#### Specific Comments on Vesting Proposal

The part of the Morning Star Reserve subject to the vesting proposal is small and has limited opportunity for ecological restoration. The site would benefit from weed control and some additional planting. KAPOW is predominantly interested in the wider Morning Star Reserve, the Oxenbridge Reserve and the area known as 'Big Beach' which is administered by LINZ.

- KAPOW acknowledges that the Te Rūnanga sees the need for a new approach or arrangement that enables outdoor activities for the enjoyment of the public; protects the public; and supports the Ngāi Tahu connection to the whenua as mana whenua and as kaitiaki. And that they consider vesting the land will enhance the rangatiratanga of Ngāi Tahu in its takiwā, support the ability of Ngāi Tahu to develop, and will provide the iwi with a level of autonomy. **Through this proposed vesting process KAPOW seeks acknowledgement of the existing high level of community conservation volunteer efforts and that the local community has a sense of kaitiakitanga for this area.**
- **KAPOW submits that Te Rūnanga and the DOC District Office also work collaboratively with KAPOW on this reserve and the wider Shotover River /Kimi-Ākau catchment,** if a decision is made for Te Rūnanga to become the Administering Body of the Proposed Vesting Area.
- If there was an agreement between DOC and Te Rūnanga on the management of the wider Shotover River/Kimi-Ākau catchment **we submit that KAPOW is recognised as a key stakeholder.**

KAPOW **supports** the proposed conditions of the vesting:

- Funds received by the vestee in its capacity as the administering body for that part of the Morning Star Beach Recreation Reserve are to be administered and applied in accordance with the requirements of the Reserves Act 1977.

- Pursuant to section 84 of the Reserves Act 1977 the Minister of Conservation authorises funds to be expended for the purposes of managing, administering, maintaining, protecting, improving, and developing the following reserves in addition to the Morning Star Beach Recreation Reserve:
  - a) Oxenbridge Tunnel Recreation Reserve
  - b) Arthurs Point Gorge Scenic Reserve
  - c) Tuckers Beach Recreation Reserve
  - d) Tuckers Beach Wildlife Management Reserve
  - e) such other reserves or land as may be approved by the Minister of Conservation from time to time in accordance with section 84 and/or section 85 of the Reserves Act 1977.

**KAPOW seeks that the Ecological Restoration Plan that is currently being drafted is acknowledged by Te Rūnanga and that KAPOW, DOC and Te Rūnanga work collaboratively to deliver the ecological objectives of this plan, if funds are being expended under s84 of the Act on the Reserves stated above.**

Again, thank you for the opportunity to submit on this vesting proposal. We look forward to working with both DOC and Te Rūnanga in future on these reserves.

Ngā mihi,

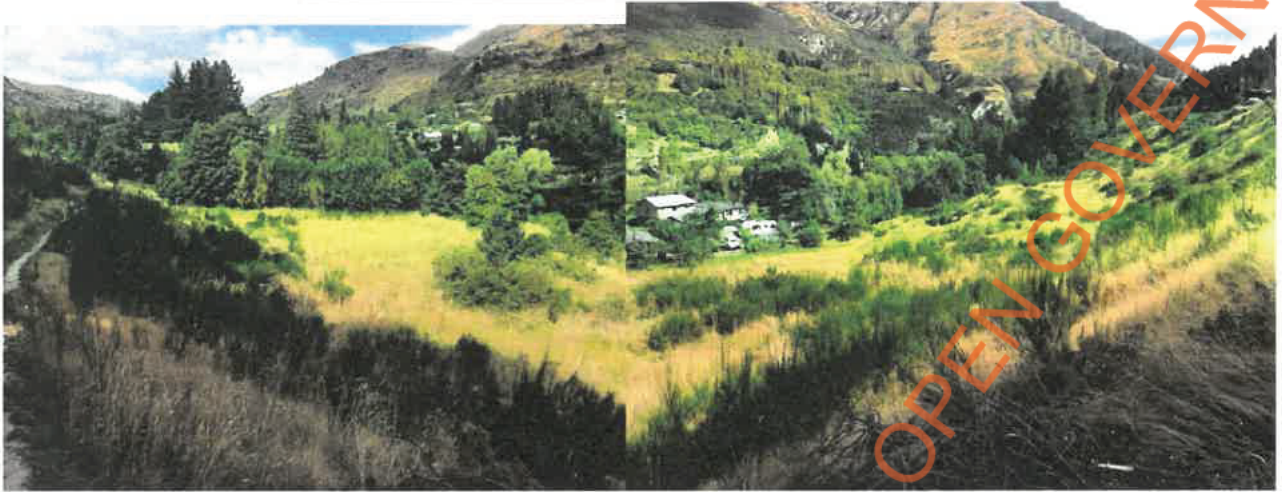
**Jeannie Galavazi**  
On behalf of KAPOW



**ATTACHMENT 1: IMAGES**

**Existing Community Project**

Morningstar Reserve prior



**Community/School planting**



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Restoration



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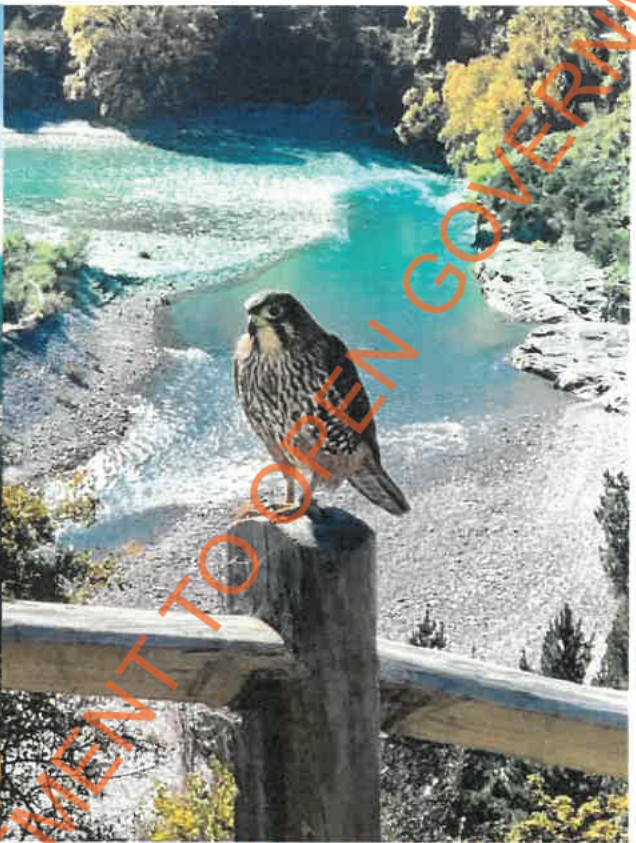
Predator Trapping



Arthurs Point Traps on Trap.nz

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Images shared by local residents



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