



Housing and Urban Development Authority Factsheet

Reconfiguring reserves powers for specified development projects

Reserves are important to New Zealanders. They provide open spaces and places for recreation and socialising. They often have cultural, historical and natural significance. While some reserves are critical to protect, the use of open space needs to be enhanced within the urban environment to support modern living.

Will the Housing and Urban Development Authority (the Authority) be able to create new open spaces?

The Authority will be able to create new reserves and public open spaces as part of a specified development project so it can enhance a community's social and cultural wellbeing.

Each specified development project will have a development plan that sets out which public open spaces will become reserves on completion of the project.

Which reserves will the Authority be able to reconfigure?

The Authority will be able to make changes to five types of reserves – government purpose, scenic, historic, recreation and local purpose. These are called Identified Reserves in the new legislation.

These changes will require the prior approval of the Minister of Conservation, who may place conditions on any use.

The Authority cannot make any changes to scientific and nature reserves, and some other types of land (such as national parks, conservation land and Māori reserves). This reflects the importance of these types of protected areas as national assets.

What powers will the Authority have over Identified Reserves?

The Authority will use a streamlined process to use all or part of an Identified Reserve for development purposes, either permanently or temporarily. Public consultation and approval from the Minister of Conservation will be required.

Using part or all of a reserve for development purposes could include:

- reconfiguring a reserve's shape or size so it better fits with the current needs of its community
- swapping a reserve for another area of land
- creating a new reserve
- building on part or all of a reserve
- temporarily or permanently using reserve land for activities such as storing construction materials or building buried infrastructure such as water pipes.

Treaty of Waitangi settlements

The Authority cannot use any of its reserves powers on reserve land that has been given to a post-settlement governance entity without the prior agreement of the post-settlement governance entity.

For more information and updates on the Authority



**MINISTRY OF HOUSING
AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**



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