



SAVE THE SPUR

Dr Abbie Spiers

*Environmental Scientist, Writer,
Mediator, Local resident*

Short-term goals (the next 5–10 mins):

- Discuss the ecological values of the Silverstream Spur
- Raise potential threats and relevant aspects of Reserve Planning Theory
- Work together with you all to make a lot of noise about the Spur so it is properly protected!





SAVE THE SPUR

The people of Upper Hutt bought the Spur because:

It is our 'Green Gateway' – the potential 'jewel in the crown' of our Town Belt & Reserve system.

The Spur has:

- Aesthetic and practical values now – to the public, some wildlife, and our Silver Stream Railway.
- Huge future potential as a reserve, with benefits for people, plants and wildlife.



**John Campbell,
Forest Ecologist**

**Review of Boffa Miskell's flawed report
on the Ecological Values of
Silverstream Spur**

**SAVE
THE
SPUR**



SAVE THE SPUR

-Key points:

- The Spur must be viewed in its broader regional context
- The forest types assessed by Boffa Miskell were entirely wrong
- The Spur has excellent prospects for regenerating native forest – and is already doing it!
- South of Kaitoke, Silverstream Spur is Upper Hutt's only remaining corridor link with the western side of the Valley
- Short-term considerations should not override the future benefits of retaining a healthy environment & diversity of species.



**SAVE
THE
SPUR**

Why worry?

If there is 'just a road' going up on the Spur now, why are we worried about it?

-It's not just a road!

It's an Infrastructure Corridor.

Infrastructure Corridor = a Road + Power, Telecommunications, Three Waters, etc.



SAVE THE SPUR

Why worry?

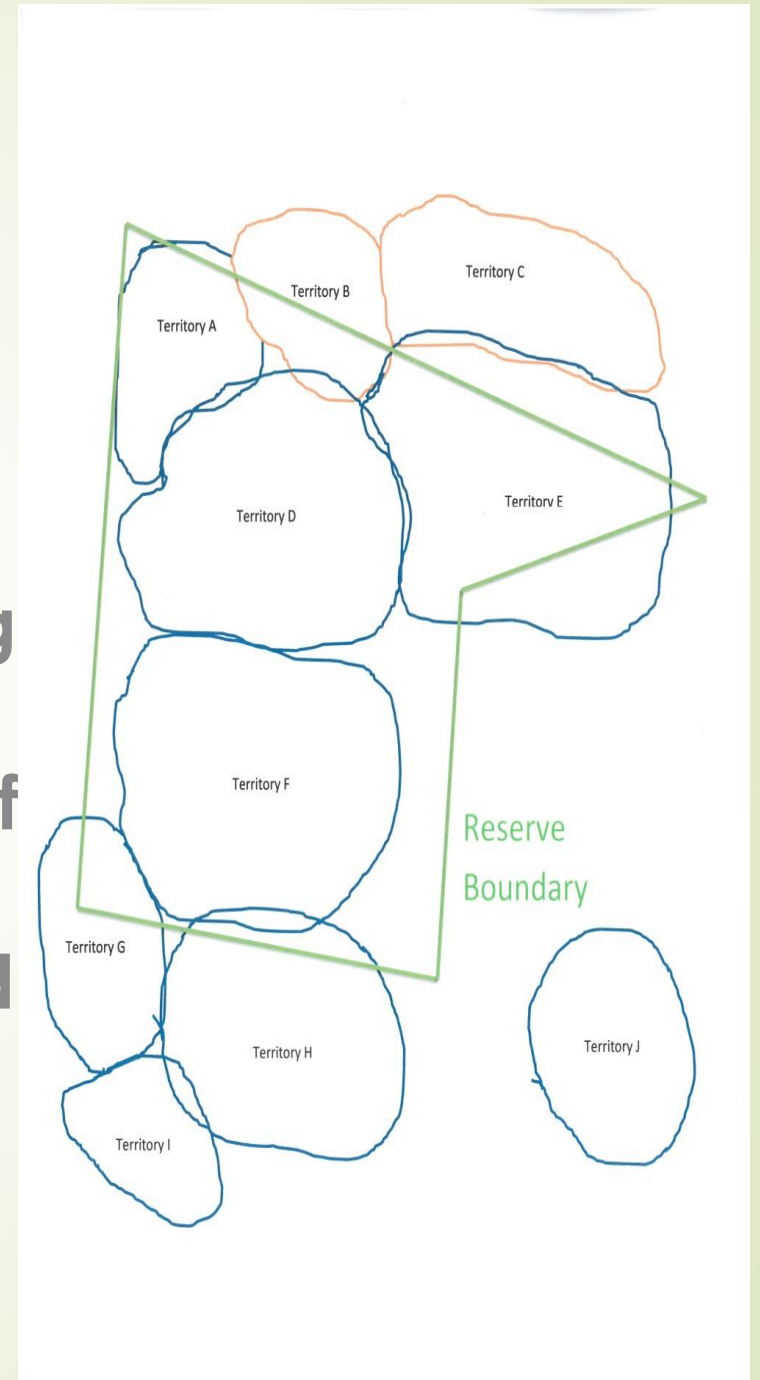
- Roads are problematic in reserves.
- Road corridors are a conduit for pests, weeds & other impacts.
- Roads are also a barrier for species to cross.



**SAVE
THE
SPUR**

Reserve Planning Theory:

- Size matters:
 - Reserve must be big enough to support viable populations of vulnerable native species, and/or food sources for them.





SAVE THE SPUR

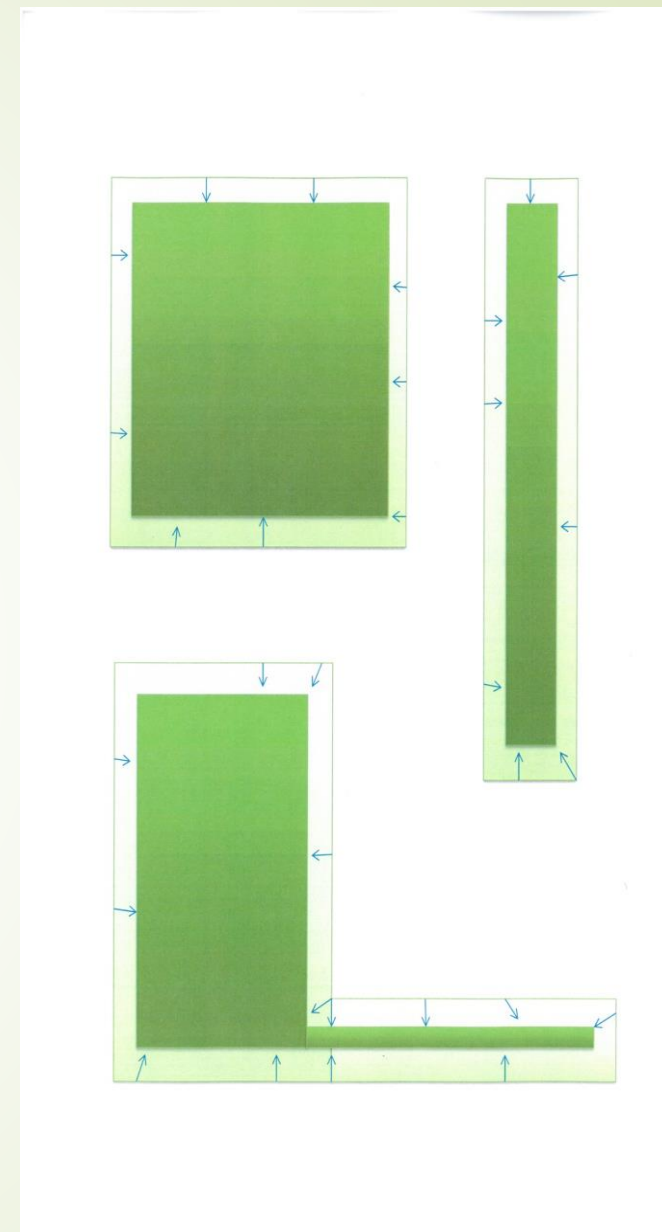
Shape matters:

Edge effects are caused by weeds, pest species, fire risk and other threats encroaching on reserve boundaries.

Narrow strips of land will likely be of lower conservation value than wide ones in the long term.

In our example, the “square” reserve has lost **28%** of its habitat to edge effect – the narrow reserve has lost **52%** - and the “L” shaped reserve is **58%** impacted due to the very narrow strip.

The closer the shape of a reserve is to square or circular, the more likely it is to be able to protect high value habitat in the middle.

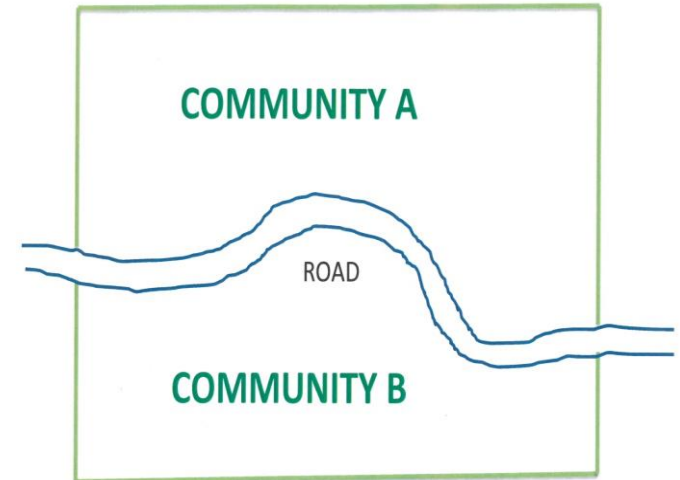




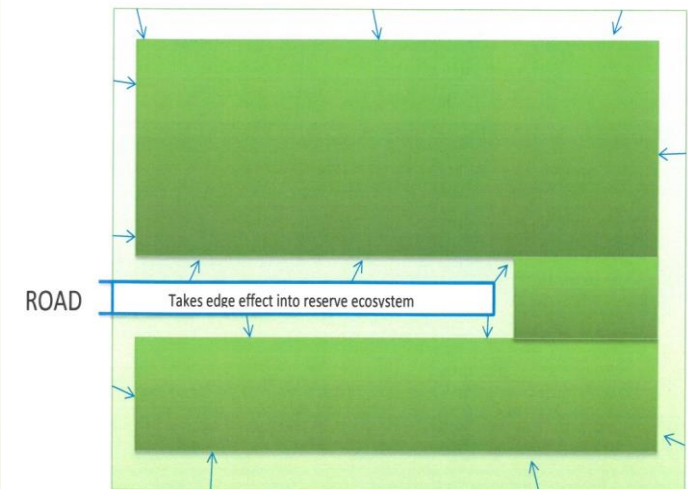
SAVE THE SPUR

Roads acts as 'barriers' & conduits for destruction in reserves:

- Roads are too wide for some species to cross safely.
- They bring edge effects along their length.



The road divides one community into two separate sections (= halves the gene pool)





**SAVE
THE
SPUR**

Roads have no place in reserves if we can possibly help it!

They are especially damaging if they go through the middle.



SAVE THE SPUR

Aren't the existing roads, rivers and railways in the Hutt Valley ecological barriers, too?

Yes. We don't need another one.

This road is wide, long, and in the wrong place.

It is unnecessary. It will bring fill and stormwater impacts, weeds, pests – and an additional barrier to ecological regeneration.



Some of us may be unlikely allies, but we have a common cause.

Let's work together to Save the Spur!

Dr Abbie Spiers

Ph 027 6150352

ramblers.song@gmail.com

