

Coromandel Great Walks

TO	Thames-Coromandel District Council
FROM	Garry Towler - Area Manager Whangamata/Tairua-Pauanui
DATE	10 September 2014
SUBJECT	Coromandel Great Walks

1 Purpose of Report

To provide a progress report to Elected Members on the Coromandel Great Walks project.

2 Background

'The Coromandel Great Walks' is a Council initiated, Peninsula wide project in partnership with DOC and Iwi (Ngati Hei for Stage 1). The vision is to create world class walking and in some cases cycling tracks throughout the Coromandel Peninsula to broaden the economic base.

The concept was drawn up in September 2012 and since then a number of milestones have been achieved:

- Identify and map out a route between Hot Water Beach and Cathedral Cove.
- Undertake a feasibility and economic impact study.
- Consult with private land owners and community.
- Confirm partnerships and partnership funding.
- Commence survey.
- Confirm Council financial support both CAPEX and OPEX for 2014/2015
- Apply for external funding.
- Engage a Project Manager.
- Expand the project to Whitianga.

Previous reports to Council have provided detail and appendices on the milestones.

3 Issue

The Coromandel Great Walks project has made significant progress this calendar year, and experienced its share of problems;

- The actions of an individual resident of Hahei in December 2013 led to the halting of negotiations with private land owners at the northern end of Hot Water Beach/southern Hahei.
- As a result it was determined that constructing a track between Hot Water Beach and Cathedral Cove would not be possible in the short to medium term (2-3 years).
- In order to progress, it was decided to identify a route from the 'Blowhole' (adjacent to the Millen property south of Hahei) through to Whitianga. "Cathedral Coast Walk"
- Included in this new scope of work was to advance negotiations with a private land owner on the construction and management of a new car park facility at Lees Rd Hahei. (Carter)
- Project Manager John Gaukrodger completed route identification through to the Purangi River in July 2014. This section is known as 1B
- Surveyors and a Quantity Surveyor were engaged to survey the entire route from the blowhole to the Purangi River. This included private land owned by Michelle and Ian Carter. The Carters have provided access over and around their property that will link to the proposed car park.

- Also included in the survey is a QE11 covenant, this the Stella Evered Memorial Park to which access has been granted.
- Lawyers representing the Carters and TCDC are currently in discussions on what options are available regarding the ownership and management of the Lees Road car park.
- The business community of Hahei raised concerns over car parking and the overload the new walks would create. This summer 2014/2015 (if the track is opened) additional car parking will be created at the Hahei waste water treatment plant with access directly on to Pa Road.
- Frame Group, one of New Zealand's leading structural designers have completed a scope of six platforms and cantilevered structures to be placed at 'wow' points along the walk. The cost of these structures will be approximately \$500,000. In addition geotechnical engineers will be at each structure site in mid-September to confirm loading requirements.
- Giblin Group, a consultancy who specialise in major project funding have been engaged to write a new application to Lotteries Significant Project Fund.
- In addition, Giblin are working on a 'Growth Partnership Fund' which links to external local, regional, central, corporate and philanthropic funders.
- Ngati Hei, as a key partner with economic interests in this section of the project is under way with a report to support the Lotteries Significant Project Application.
- Ngati Hei are keen to progress the protection of the sensitive dunes at Hot Water Beach, this was part of the original plan. Stage 1C will look at the Hot Water Beach section.
- At the request of DOC in June 2014, the formation of a Walks Governance Body was delayed to allow DOC time to assess and best approach what is a unique partnership. (TCDC are the facilitators and fundraisers of a project on land it does not own) DOC have now advised that they are keen to enter into a joint management agreement with TCDC and Ngati Hei and for a Governance body such as a Trust to be formed which could well include management of the Cathedral Cove track.

4 Discussion

Stage 1A and 1B are complete in terms of identification, survey and quantity survey. The full costs of constructing these two sections is incomplete at the report agenda deadline but will be provided to Elected Members on the 24th September, however an indicative figure of \$2.5million is a benchmark at present.

If this figure of \$2.5million is confirmed, external fundraising of \$1.25 million will be required. Giblin Group have identified and confirmed where and when this money is available. The three major funding sources Lotteries Significant Fund, Lotteries Heritage Fund and Trust Waikato will announce their successful recipients in February/March 2015.

The next phase of the project to December 2014 focusses on;

- Carter's car park. Ownership, management and maintenance
- Easements over DoC/Iwi/private land to the Governance or Management Group.
- Major funding applications.
- Construction timelines.
- A full Governance meeting including second tier stakeholders (October).

In summary, the project has in effect created three new walk links to Hahei and Cathedral Cove of approximately 14km, an ideal one day walk which incorporates transport and accommodation

Subject to securing sufficient external funding the project is set to begin.

5 Suggested Resolution(s)

That the Thames-Coromandel District Council

1. Receives the report.