

Hikua District Trust - Stage 2 Pauanui to Tairua Walking/Cycling Trail

TO	Tairua-Pauanui Community Board
FROM	Faith O'Sullivan-Babe - Community Facilities Planner
DATE	01 August 2018
SUBJECT	Hikua District Trust - Stage 2 Pauanui to Tairua Walking/Cycling Trail

1 Purpose of report

To seek the Board's support for a recommendation to the Thames-Coromandel District Council:

- To approve becoming the Controlling Authority for Stage 2 of the Pauanui to Tairua Trail; and
- Allow the trail route over land administered by Council (comprised in CFR 571787) to be declared by Gazette Notice as a Walkway subject to the Walking Access Act 2008 (WAA).

2 Background

The Hikua District Trust (HDT) is building a 25km walking/cycling trail from Pauanui to Tairua. Stage 1 of the trail is approximately 1km long and runs from Waterways Parade through to the Tangiteroria Lane carpark. Stage 2 covers a distance of approximately 4.2km from the Tangiteroria Lane carpark through to Duck Creek. Stage 3 is approximately 7km long and will take the trail from Duck Creek through to Prescott's Garage. Stages 1 and 2 of the trail have been constructed and are in use (see Attachment B). Stage 3 is currently under construction.

Stage 1 of the trail was built by the Coastal Walkways Association prior to any involvement of HDT and includes a boardwalk that extends over the tidal mud flats. The boardwalk's structural design along with any consenting history and/or requirements is unknown and for this reason Stage 1 of the trail is excluded for the purpose of this report.

Stage 2 of the trail has been constructed by HDT to comply with the SNZ HB 8630:2004 'Walking Track' standard and all necessary resource and building consents have been obtained. Considerable support and funding from Council, the general public and a number other organisations has been received by HDT to develop this stage of the trail.

HDT is now being assisted by the Walking Access Commission (the Commission) to have the trail declared as a gazetted walkway under the WAA with Council appointed as the Controlling Authority. While HDT currently maintain Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the trail (and have indicated that they are keen to continue this role) it is reiterated that Stage 1 is excluded from the recommendations sought by this report.

3 Discussion

Part of Council's Mission is to deliver quality, affordable facilities to ratepayers, residents and visitors through innovative and efficient decision making and the empowerment of our communities. Council's Vision also places emphasis on supporting community organisations and economic development so that the Coromandel Peninsula is a desirable place to live, work and visit. In keeping with the Mission and Vision, the Hikua to Tairua Trail is fast

proving to be a valuable and popular visitor attraction. It is also well used by the local community for various recreational activities.

To date HDT has received the following funding from Council to develop the Pauanui to Tairua Trail.

\$ 2,000	2013 Community Grant
\$ 56,000	2013/14 LTP
\$ 50,000	2015/16 AP
\$ 6,300	Discretionary Fund - Sep 2014
\$ 6,000	Discretionary Fund - Nov 2015 for Pauanui boardwalk repairs
\$ 6,500	Discretionary Fund - May 2016
\$ 10,000	Discretionary Fund - Jan 2018
\$100,000	2017/18 LTP
<u>\$236,800</u>	Total

An additional \$100,000 has been allocated in 2018/19 LTP for Stage 3 of the trail which is currently under construction. It has been estimated that this stage of the trail will be completed by December 2018.

With regard to the purpose of this report, Stage 2 of the trail passes through recreational reserve, marginal strip, private land and Crown Forest Licence. Under the WAA, walkways are created by linking each land type and/or title through a Gazette Notice. Accordingly, the Commission is seeking to secure enduring legal access over the entire walkway and requires consent from Council to include land held under CFR 571787 in the gazetted route and show this land parcel as part of the walkway on the survey plan.

It is considered that granting approval to include land held under CFR 571787 in the gazetted route and show this as part of the walkway on the survey plan, is reasonable. This will ensure the Pauanui to Tairua Trail always has legal access and can be managed in its entirety by a Controlling Authority even though it covers different land types and tenure.

Further, all walkways created under the WAA require a public body to be the Controlling Authority. The duties of the Controlling Authority are to maintain the walkway as set out in Appendix 1 of Attachment A. The Commission is asking for Council to assume the role of Controlling Authority for Stage 2 of the trail. The Commission has also indicated that they will be requesting Council to assume the Controlling Authority role for subsequent stages of the trail as, and when, they are completed.

Given the considerable support and investment that Council has already provided to develop the trail and the offer from HDT to continue the ongoing maintenance, it would seem remiss of Council not to adopt the Controlling Authority role for Stage 2.

However while HDT have indicated that they are happy to continue maintaining the trail, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between HDT and Council outlining both parties expectations for ongoing maintenance has yet to be drawn up and would ultimately need to be agreed upon. If agreement between both parties could not be reached the costs for the ongoing maintenance of Stage 2 of the trail would be borne by Council and ratepayers.

It is estimated that costs to maintain Stage 2 of the trail are likely to be in the vicinity of \$49,267.00 (including approximately \$15,000 in depreciation costs) per annum which would equate to approximately \$12 per ratepayer per year.

A breakdown of the ongoing maintenance costs of \$34,267 is provided below:

1. Surface maintenance (*this is based on major resurface of the entire trail every 10 years but could be reduced if minor track surface maintenance is undertaken on a pro rata basis every 3 years*)

4,200m @ \$65 per linear metre (incl. materials & labour) = ~\$273,000

Yearly rate = ~\$27,300

2. Pest plant control 3 times per year
 - Chemicals - 3 x \$700 = ~\$2,100
 - Labour - 25hrs @ \$60 per hour = ~\$1,500
 - Quad bike - 3 x \$100 = ~\$300

Yearly rate = ~\$3,900

3. Structural engineers condition assessment (bridges, boardwalks, safety barrier etc.) every 3 years (incl. site visit, travel time and report writing)
 - 16hrs @ \$200 per hour = ~\$3,200

Yearly rate = ~\$1,067

4. Minor structural repairs and maintenance (*this is based on a life expectancy of 20 years and is likely to increase once the structures reach 15 years and beyond*)

Yearly rate = ~\$2,000

4 Suggested resolution(s)

That the Tairua-Pauanui Community Board:

1. Receives the 'Hikuai District Trust - Stage 2 Pauanui to Tairua Walking/Cycling Trail' report.
2. Recommends to the Thames-Coromandel District Council that the Council adopts the Controlling Authority role for Stage 2 of the Pauanui to Tairua Trail.
3. Recommends to the Thames-Coromandel District Council that the Council allows the trail route over land administered by the Council (comprised in CFR 571787) to be declared a Walkway by Gazette Notice registered on the title.

References-Tabled/Agenda Attachments

Attachment A CMS 3021 Pauanui Tairua Trail - Controlling Authority Request

Attachment B A Hikuai District Trust Project - The Pauanui Tairua Trail

Attachment A

Attachment B