

Date: Thursday 10 September 2015
Time: 5.15pm
Meeting Room: Waiheke Local Board Office
Venue: 10 Belgium Street
Ostend
Waiheke Island

Waiheke Local Board

OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

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7.1	Local Dog Access Rules in the Waiheke Local Board Area 2015	
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We are asking the Waiheke Local Board

- (a) not to ratify the decisions of the Hearings Panel in respect to the dog by-law changes but rather to*
- (b) defer reconsideration of any rule change mindful that it will delay the time/season rule for this summer and*
- (c) commit to a further consultation process which is undertaken within the community (rather than through Auckland Council standard process) but which includes an opportunity for local recreation/trail users, Forest & Bird, biodiversity and Council staff to come together to reach an agreement about maintaining as much off lead trail as is reasonable while providing protection for wildlife and*
- (d) use that consultation process as an educational opportunity in terms of raising awareness about sites of significance requiring protection, inviting buy-in from users about how to ensure compliance with agreed on-leash areas and increase community understanding about why some popular areas on trails may, by law, be subject to on-leash requirements.*

Why is this important?

- *At stake are 20 km or more of currently OFF LEAD walking and running on our stunning coastal walkways. (they would become ON LEAD ONLY).*
- *Exercising a dog off lead, responsibly and with consideration for the environment and other trail users, keeps our dogs happier and healthier plus our people fitter and healthier in many ways.*
- *There are many areas on this network of trails where exercising a dog on a lead is impractical and unsafe.*
- *We believe the board's decisions were based on recommendations made at AC (biodiversity) rather than on locally meaningful input from islanders who really know and understand the network of trails, reserves, beaches, foreshore and significant ecological areas.*
- *The submissions document was onerous and confusing, and not the ideal way to get great outcomes for the community now and into the future. There are certainly areas and species that need protection but we are hoping the trails in between can be kept as OFF LEAD to the greatest extent possible.*
- *There is opportunity here to maintain what makes Waiheke unique and special. We have received many messages from people saying how this freedom to adventure has been what makes this a great place for them, and their dog to live. We can be the dog-friendliest community and a community that protects and nurtures its wildlife all at the same time.*
- *We wish to work with Forest and Bird, Biodiversity, Council / Parks officers, the board, recreational and tourism users to come up with solutions. There is opportunity to educate people about conservation, and to get a buy-in from trail users of every type.*
- *Let's not draw lines in the sand, but rather work on solutions so we can all continue to live and thrive in this most special of places.*
- *Areas affected are Little Palm to Cory Rd Track, Sandy Bay to Hekerua Track, Newton Rd to Little O Track, West end of Oneroa to Koroa Track, Korora to Island Bay Track, Owhanake-Matiatia Headland Track, Matiatia / Sculpture Track, Church Bay to end of Cable Bay Lane Track, Te Whau Track. All currently accepted and used as OFF LEAD*

This is an opportunity for the Board to show its mettle by acknowledging that a better outcome is possible, given more time and consultation with interested and affected parties