Waitākere Ranges Local Board
OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

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Note: The attachments contained within this document are for consideration and should not be construed as Council policy unless and until adopted. Should Councillors require further information relating to any reports, please contact the relevant manager, Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson.
The Case For Re-opening Spragg Bush Tracks:

It has come to our notice that the council is permanently closing the Spragg Bush tracks without any public consultation.

This news has shocked us as, like most other Aucklanders, we assumed that the majority of the Waitakere Ranges tracks would be progressively upgraded and re-opened with the dedicated funding that has now been allocated for this purpose.

There are a lot of people who are extremely angry about the fact the Council has unilaterally decided to close this set of tracks without public consultation.

We would like the tracks given the highest priority for upgrading and reopening for the following reasons:

- A door-to-door survey of 114 families living in properties adjoining or adjacent to Spragg Bush showed 106 families support upgrading and re-opening the tracks as soon as possible, over 90%, an overwhelming level of support.

- Without exception, all residents said they had deliberately chosen to live here because they were passionate about the forest environment and its protection.

- Most have young families and would like their children to be able to interact with the natural environment and grow up to become advocates for its preservation.

- The tracks are heavily used by the local residents, most walking them at least once a week and many using them daily. A comprehensive survey of the residents in the area revealed that they were being used regularly by over 400 local people.

- There are no alternatives to the tracks. The local roads lack footpaths and are narrow and dangerous for pedestrians.

- The tracks link the local families together and are essential to providing a sense of community.

- The local residents have already been doing some of the track maintenance, like trimming back encroaching vegetation and clearing windfalls, and many are also doing weed and pest control on their properties to help preserve the pristine nature of the environment.
• Spragg Bush was donated by the Spragg family to preserve a patch of virgin bush for the public to enjoy. We now have a ridiculous situation where Spragg family descendants cannot access the bush their ancestors so generously donated.

• Spragg Bush contains an historic cemetery which descendants of the people buried there should be able to visit.

• The tracks are short, 1.8kms in total, readily accessible for upgrading and vital for community cohesion.

• Contrary to completely unsubstantiated allegations in the media alleging people living in the Waitakere Ranges have been spreading kauri dieback disease, none of us want to see the disease spreading as we’re the ones who will have to live with the consequences. Residents generally had footwear which was only used for walking this track and which was not used anywhere else.

• The local community is willing to assist with the work. Some upgrading has already been done. For example, board walking has already been installed around all kauri.

• Stuart Leighton, one of the Waitakere rangers, has assessed the tracks and come to the conclusion it will cost a maximum of $200,000 to upgrade the tracks to the required standard.

In conclusion, the Council has a list of tracks that it proposes to reopen. The Spragg Bush tracks are not on this list. We request they are added to the list and given the highest priority for upgrading and reopening.

This is not some remote coastal track, but one in the heart of our community. It is as essential to us as a footpath is to more urban communities.

Permanent or prolonged closure is not an option.

The Spragg Bush residents

Contact details: austen@inspire.net.nz
Location of Spragg Bush Tracks.
We, the undersigned, would like the Spraggs Bush Tracks upgraded and re-opened as soon as possible.

Lisa Penman  39 Turanga Rd, HSN Valley
2 adults, 2 children.

Nigel & Kim Barnes S33 Turanga Rd, HSN Valley
2 adults, 3 children.

Tracey & John Glenn 57 Turanga Rd, HSN Valley
2 adults, 2 children.

Karen & Mike Byrne  37 Turanga Rd, HSN Valley
2 adults.

Jenny & Ruth Knepp 61 Turanga Rd, Madison Valley, Mt. One
2 adults, 2 kids, 1 dog.

Colleen Warren 63 Turanga Rd, HSN Valley
Warren Warren

Mark Storey 65 Turanga Rd, HSN Valley
Kelly & Shelby

Pete Teale  56 Turanga Rd
Dianne & Mackenzie

Brenda Liley 54 Turanga Rd
David
Eva

Melissa Pigeon 52 Turanga Rd
Dan
Lily
Thomas
Ellen
Sigci Hamlin
30 Turanga Road, Henderson Valley.

Hege & Nadiu Rathjens
17 Turanga Road, Henderson Valley, Auckland

Sheryl & Ray Hawlett
15 Turanga Rd, Henderson Valley, 0612
S.hawlett@xtra.co.nz
6 people affected in our family.

Ace & Lisa
18 Turanga Road

Dennis Lodge
16 Turanga Rd

I have been using the track for 60yrs. this time I have lived here. This is across the road. Walls around the house

Kristina & Jason Frey
11 Turanga Rd

This is a local bush track which is much needed by us and our child so we can enjoy the bush without driving anywhere
Item 7.2

Steven Caddie
735 Scenic Drive

Carole Doyle
737 Scenic Drive

Frank Tenret
739 Scenic Drive

Tim McLeod
715 Scenic Drive

Paul & Gabrielle Swain
725 Scenic Drive

x 3

Sheryl Hawkes
737 Scenic Drive

Wendy

Max Williams
759 Scenic Drive

x 4
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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Amy Watts</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Henderson Valley</td>
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<td>Sean Sullivan</td>
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<td>Chris Watts</td>
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Item 7.2

James D. Morrice
9/3 Scenic Drive, Henderson Valley, Auckland

Nick Cronin
7/19 Scenic Drive
Henderson Valley, Auckland

Tony E Suss Kelly, 7/1

Joel "Mister"
223 Scenic Drive
Henderson Valley

09

+ family for 0609

Andrew H. C.
7/27 Scenic Drive
3 people
Item 7.2

Tessa "Rosemary" Williams
55 "Tawanya" Road

Craig & Emma Williams
48 "Tawanya" Rd x 4

Tom G辄
14 "Tawanya" Rd

Gavin Bensen
38 "Tawanya" Rd

Jane Alexander x 3
43 "Tawanya" Rd
Waipu Bay

Geoff Lumsden Wood
31 "Tawanya" Rd
Henderson Valley x 5

Dermot Milburn
29 "Tawanya" Road
Henderson Valley x 3

Anna Henry x 2

Seamus McCarthy
31 "Tawanya" Road
Henderson Valley x 4

Tom and Wicky Austin
35 "Tawanya" Rd,
Henderson Valley x 4
S. Kapteyn
697 Scenic Dr
Henderson Valley

B. & M. Field
693 Scenic Dr
Henderson Valley 0612

C. G. J. Field
691 Scenic Drive
Henderson

A. G. Gilchrist
687 Scenic Dr

C. R. G.
695 Scenic Drive

W. B. Lockhart
697 Scenic Drive

G. G. 695 Scenic Drive

J. C. E. Lockhart
761 Scenic Drive

S. Carter
69 Turanga Rd
SDCART@ATRIACO.co.nz

A. Armstrong
703 Scenic Drive

A. Humphrey
705 Scenic Dr

A. Masiy
707 Scenic Dr

A. Roberts
711 Scenic Drive

M. Chaplin

Item 7.2
Amanda Piercey + James Rowe
186 Mountain Road
Henderson Valley

Davis Family 3 adults 2 children
192 Mountain Rd
Henderson Valley

Bill Edser
192 8 Mountain Rd

Casey Drum + Kim Drum + 2 kids
194a Mountain Rd

Tony & Julia O'Boyle + 2 teenagers
194 Mountain Rd

Abby + A J Firth
196 Mountain Road

Nathan & Megan Green
190 Mountain Rd
Hannah Westgaard 78 Mountain Rd 3 person family
John Daron 200 " " 5 " "
Pam Sedgley 180 Mountain Rd 2 " "
Mike & Rose Wilson 288 Mountain Rd 4 " "
Jack & Liz & Anne 229 Mountain Rd 2 " "
Lindon & Lucy Baden & Tawari Rd 2 " "
Fleur White 8 Tawari Rd x 4
Melanie McCord
10 Tawari Rd 10 McCord
Stephen Dench 10 Tawari Rd 1 " "
Steven & Karen 12 Tawari Rd x 2
Joanne & Gevan 210 Mountain Rd Henderson Valley
2 children
Richard Turk 204 Mountain Rd Henderson Valley
x 2
Jan Haine 40 Turanga Road
I would support Simpson Bush upward for future access for walking.

T. Williams

Janette & Lindsay Kyle
3 Turanga Rd, Henderson Valley
5 people

Andreu Whareara
185 Mountain Rd

Bruce Dickson
185 Mountain Rd
X 5 people

Liz Champion
179 Mountain Rd
(2 x people)

Robert Ayres
175 Mountain Rd
10

Mark Helli
177 Mountain Rd
6 total

Chuck Kay

Paul & Joy McNab
188 Mountain Rd
3 total
J acqueline Finchiffe.
12 Turanga Rd., Henderson Valley - Five People Affected.

Dave Swanson
36 Turanga Rd.

Alec & Philippa Mandis x 8
27 Turanga Road.

Teena & Mark Haynes
22 Turanga Rd. X 5

32 Turanga Rd.
Daniels Family 6 People.

44 Turanga Rd.
Botten Family 3 Persons

1 Turanga Road
Steven & Jane Gray 2 People

187 Mountain Rd.
Graham & Cherry Poole 2 People
Item 7.2

Jian Guan
Steve Green
Jean Avery
Stephen Avery
Kevin Vipond
Hugh Warner
801 Scenic Drive
777 Scenic Drive
777 Scenic Drive
765 Scenic Drive
216 Mountain Road
Local Board Presentation 15/02/18 @ 6pm
My Name is Ruben Penning. I’m a local resident of Glen Eden. My Family moved to the area from Henderson Valley to be closer to schools, work and transport options. By Transport options I Mean the train. As Henderson’s roads, safe walking and cycling tracks are far superior to anything here. Although I have only lived in Glen Eden for 2 years the increasingly fast paced life and amount of change in the area is phenomenal.
I would have hoped that our council together with Auckland transport were keeping up with our need for a safe and happy Glen Eden and I’ll tell you why.
Last year on the 13th June My daughter was hit by a car crossing Captain Scott rd trying to get home from GEIS school.
The driver did not see her and did not even break before the impact. She received two fractures to her hip, a fractured skull causing a bleed on the brain and a broken ankle. According to the police report we were Lucky as unlike 50% of drivers on Captain Scott road the driver was doing the speed limit otherwise she would not be with us today.
The rehab has been hard with physio, OT, expensive counselling sessions and pain clinic appointments. While her body has healed the concussion damage and resulting memory loss could take 2 years or longer.
She is living in constant pain due to a condition called "Crips" caused by the crash. To deal with this she is on some strong pain medication with potentially serious side affects.
After the crash my wife called Auckland transport to ask for a safe way to cross Captain Scott rd.
Their generic written response literally said:
"Sadly, 64 people died on our roads and an additional 749 were seriously injured 2017"
"We appreciate you contacting us and although we will be unable to investigate and respond to your individual request"
We told them their approach as appalling and they re-looked at the case. Fast forward 8 months to Monday 10th this week we received another letter. With no correspondence over the 8 months the letter stated "We completed a pedestrian count in the area which indicated pedestrian numbers at this location are insufficient to justify the installation of a pedestrian crossing facility at this stage. As a result we are unable to proceed with your request."
Every day since school started back last Friday I have seen Children struggling to cross this road. Why should children have to risk their lives on a daily basis?
My Challenge is to you my local board. What can you do now to make crossing Captain Scott rd safer?
Every day wasted is another day needlessly risking the lives of our most vulnerable who have barely begun their lives.

Ruben Penning (Fletcher Steel)

From: Ruben Penning (Fletcher Steel)
Sent: Thursday, 14 February 2019 1:22 AM
To: Ruben Penning (Fletcher Steel)
Subject: local board presentation
Kerry Titchener

My submission is that this toilet block will be a massive mistake for the Titirangi Village. It will be prominently viewed by everyone entering Titirangi from the city end and therefore become the first impression everyone will have of our village. It encroaches significantly onto the pavement and removes the lower view of the iconic Rimu Tree. As the photos testify, this building does not blend into the surrounding environment. Its bulk and location, I believe, will not be sufficiently mitigated by the native flora painted walls, as nice as they are.
Attachment B

Item 9.5
Item 9.5

Attachment B
I wish to bring to your attention the contrast between the Dept of Conservation’s (DOC) approach to kauri dieback and the Council’s. DOC are committed to progressively upgrading as many of their tracks as possible. So far they have upgraded 192 km at a cost of $86,099,969. Their approach has been to keep as many tracks as possible open. The Council are intent on shutting as many tracks as possible, even if there are no significant kauri, and reopening the remainder as slowly as possible. It should not take 5 years to re-open the few they are planning to upgrade. This course of action is also against the re-commencement of their own park staff.

A couple of appropriate quotes from a submission on track closures seems to encapsulate the Council’s approach:

"Council has always viewed the problem as the users and their shoes rather than the tracks and their mud. Council has readily looked for reasons to deny access when the obvious solution has always been to improve the quality of the tracks."

"For more than 30 years there has been a policy which neglected the track system and by design or default, discouraged public use."

This approach seems to be confirmed by the way the Council has gone about the closure of the tracks and the lack of access we public consultation. To re-populate, originally some lesser used tracks were closed temporarily and both the Mayor and Councillor Hulse, chair of the Environment committee were quoted as saying “the park will not be closed.” Yet this has proven the temporarily closed tracks are permanently closed and the whole park is closed temporarily while tracks are upgraded. The latest plan is to upgrade very few and close all the rest. They have also resolutely refused to consult with The Track User Forum, an umbrella organisation representing 15 park user groups e.g. tramping groups, trail runners, meet up groups.

Optimus Bush is a good example of the different approaches. That track traverses a large dense stand of kauri right at its north end. As DOC have re-opened the track after upgrading it they are obviously confident that users will not spread the disease. The 4.5 km track cost $305,785 to upgrade. Under the Council guidelines it would not have been re-opened, ever.

Legislation establishing the Waitakere ranges regional park states: “it is to provide recreational opportunities for Aucklanders”. Closing a large number of tracks is hardly fulfilling this requirement when they can be made safe from kauri dieback by upgrading them.

The new environmental levy has been budgeted to provide $43.5m for track upgrades and vehicle wash downs over 10 years. $4.3 m a year. If you take DOC’s figures of $32,343 to upgrade one kilometre of track and double it because the Waitakere Ranges tracks are so neglected, the total cost of upgrading the approximately 250 km of track in the Waitakere is still well under $20m and within the budget.

Many of us find it appalling that the Council is intent on closing to the public, permanently and forever, a large portion of Auckland’s regional parkland. This has been painstakingly acquired over many years by previous councils for public recreation and at a time of rapidly increasing population and diminishing outdoor recreational opportunities. We are forever reprimanding that our children and grandchildren get too little exercise and are becoming obese. What an irony. It would be unreasonable and affect future generations. The council needs to adopt DOC’s approach and keep open as many tracks as possible. It now has the funding to do this. Otherwise, give the job to DOC, who have far more experience and expertise than the Council, along with the funding to manage the park as they have far more experience and expertise than the council.

Kauri dieback ought to be the catalyst to progressively upgrade the whole track network, not shut it down. What a legacy to leave our descendants!

I ask for your support to lobby the Council to change its approach.

Tom & Vicky Austen
Email: austen@inspire.net.nz