

Attachment C – Feedback Memo

Memorandum

27 June 2019

To: Bryce Pomfrett, Service Development Manager

CC: Phoebe Peguero, Advisor, Howick Local Board

From: David Collings, Chair – Howick Local Board

Subject: Howick Local Board feedback on review of Walking Access Act 2008

Purpose

1. To provide feedback from the Howick Local Board on the review of the Walking Access Act 2008.

Summary

- *Auckland Council notified all local boards on 17 June 2019 that public consultation on the review of the Walking Access Act 2008 was open until 2 July 2019.*
- *The Howick Local Board has considered the review and wishes to provide feedback.*

Context/Background

2. On 17 June 2019 all local boards were notified that Auckland Council intended to provide feedback on the review of the Walking Access Act 2008 led by the Ministry for Primary Industries. Local boards were also invited to provide feedback.
3. This legislation governs the work of the New Zealand Walking Access Commission - Ara Hīkoi Aotearoa. As part of this review, public feedback is sought on the current Act and the Walking Access Commission. There will be a subsequent formal submission opportunity should this feedback result in legislative changes.
4. The Walking Access Act 2008 set up the New Zealand Walking Access Commission which:

- provides information to the public about where public access is available across New Zealand
 - helps groups across the country develop free tracks, trails and areas
 - works at a strategic level to develop landscape wide public access plans
 - negotiates when users and landowners disagree about access.
5. The Auckland Council draft feedback supports increasing public access to the outdoors for recreational purposes. This access however will need to continued being weighed against other considerations such as infrastructure, risk and resilience, environmental, economic and social and cultural priorities facing the Auckland region.
 6. The board has considered this advice at a direction setting workshop on 20 June and endorsed the intention. If an urgent decision is made, this authorisation memo, attachments, the urgent decision and the submission made (Attachment B) will be reported as an information item at the next business meeting.
 7. Public feedback can be given from 17 May 2019 and the closing date is 2 July 2019.

Feedback

8. Howick Local Board members have considered the review of the Walking Access Act and have formally resolved the following through the urgent decision process.

That the Howick Local Board:

- a) supports the consideration of all types of users on tracks and trails and recommends tracks and trails are made wide enough to allow safe shared use by all users
- b) supports protecting neighbouring properties and their interests (such as stock) from all types of track users
- c) supports upgrades of existing pathways to make them safe for all users
- d) supports the development of sections of the National Walkway (Te Araroa Trail) over private or public land when necessary for continuity of the walkway sections or to provide safe access for users
- e) requests that where new pathways are created through sensitive environmental and ecological areas, additional pest control measures are put in place to reduce the ability of mammalian pests to travel easily though these areas
- f) supports the development of any new pathways which would help to compensate for the significant loss of existing track access throughout the region due to Kauri dieback controls.

Next Steps/Implementation

9. As outlined in the above resolution, the Howick Local Board request that staff take this feedback into consideration in in the wider Auckland Council feedback on the review.

