

REVIEW OF THE WALKING ACCESS ACT 2008 - Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board feedback

Background:

The Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board acknowledges the opportunity to give feedback to the 'Review of the Walking Access Act 2008' as part of Auckland Council's submission to the Ministry of Primary Industries on the current act.

One of the board's Local Board Plan (2017) outcome area is, 'Its easy to get around'. The board wants to see the area better connected for people to move with ease by foot and cycle. The board continues to prioritise routes through parks and other public spaces for cyclists and walkers, as identified in the Ōtara-Papatoetoe Greenways Plan (Local Paths) 2017. The Manukau Harbour foreshore, Puhinui Reserve and Puhinui Stream are treasured assets within this area. The Puhinui Reserve contains 40ha of restricted conservation area on the western shoreline - with a large salt marsh wetland. It is also part of the Matukuturua volcanic field.

Feedback:

The Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board supports the draft council feedback points. It further notes the following feedback comments:

1. That the Review of the Walking Access Act (2008) is an opportunity to establish greater regulatory/legislative emphasis given to rahui or other kaitiaki actions deemed necessary by mana whenua over public land.
2. In honouring Auckland Council's commitment to its Treaty relationship with mana whenua, hapu and iwi, especially their kaitiaki role towards the environment, every opportunity needs to be taken up to support interests and actions in protecting the environment.
3. The local board supports the purpose and intention outlined in the Operational Considerations in the draft council submission. The board further recommends that a reference be included on considerations deemed necessary by mana whenua and in addition seek regulatory support to local boards to enforce the rahui at a local level, if the need arises in local areas, e.g. at the Puhinui Reserve.