

6 May 2008

Dear

Response to E- Petition requesting provision of a cycling lane in the Botanic Garden

The Wellington Botanic Garden Combined Management Plan, with the exception of the Glenmore Kinross Streets link, excludes all unauthorised vehicles including cycles, skateboards and scooters from all areas of the Botanic Garden and Bolton Street Memorial Park.

The Botanic Garden is a place for passive recreation and low level active recreation activities such as walking and running. The Botanic Garden has a significant number of commuters. Visitors to the garden do not expect to compete for pedestrian paths with cyclists. Our experience to date has been that staff and users of the garden feel threatened and intimidated by cyclists who traverse the garden at speed with out consideration for other users. Without doubt this will result in a serious accident.

There are few pedestrian only refuges in the city. The Botanic Garden (and Bolton Street Memorial Park) offers one which is safe for walkers, commuters, those who have disabilities and for families.

While we do not see an immediate solution we are investigating the suggestion made in the E- petition and how it might be made to work. The proposed cycle access cuts through the lookout and access to the Cable Car or past one of our operational messes where our staff are moving in and out , often with equipment, and then along a well used and traditional pedestrian commuter route. Regardless of the route of the proposed solution there remain user conflicts. Our prime concern is the safety and enjoyment of users and staff of the Botanic Garden

Council is working towards a walking and cycle friendly city. Reserve areas are being increasingly made available for cycling in its various forms often with recreation and commuting in mind. However there are sites where cycling in any form is an inappropriate activity.

Management plans are prepared and developed via public consultation processes and, while regarded a rolling documents, cannot be arbitrarily modified. The Combined Botanic Gardens Management plan is not due for review until 2012.

Yours sincerely

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