
REPORT 5
(1215/12/IM)

**RATIFICATION OF MAKARA/OHARIU COMMUNITY
BOARD SUBMISSION TO THE DRAFT TRACK
RECREATION ACTIVITIES POLICY**

Officers recommend that the Makara/Ohariu Community Board:

1. *Receives the information.*
2. *Ratifies the Board submission to the Draft Track Recreation Activities Policy.*

Attached is the Board submission to the:

- Draft Track Recreation Activities Policy (Appendix 1)

MAKARA OHARIU COMMUNITY BOARD

Submission on the Draft Track Recreation Activities Policy

Date for submission: 16 October 2008

The Makara Ohariu Community Board ('MOCB') makes the following comments in respect of the above Draft Policy, with particular reference to horse riding as a common rural recreational activity and increased visitor numbers expected in the rural area in the near future.

Future recreation and visitor numbers in Makara:

The West Wind Environment Court conditions provided for a recreation group tasked with developing recreational opportunities on Quartz Hill with access through to Opau Bay. This group has met twice and included representatives from Council, Meridian, recreational groups and the local community.

Currently under discussion are the opening up of the northern part of the Quartz Hill site round turbine B2, with access via Opau Rd, a visitor centre in the old radio building, parking, toilets, flat walkways to the gun emplacements etc. A walking/riding loop track from the Makara beach and estuary is also under consideration. Initial work on this project estimates that visitor numbers to the area may increase by upwards of 100,000 visitors in the first year.

Horse riding in the rural area:

Both Makara and Ohariu host large horse riding communities, with Makara Pony Club, the Ohariu Valley Riding School and various other equestrian activities and businesses. Over recent years it has become very unsafe to ride horses on the public road, although many people still do this instead of floating horses to and from Pony Club and grazing areas. An increase in traffic as discussed above will become create major safety issues for horse riders and cyclists.

The Makara Ohariu Community Board supports any plans to create extra horse riding areas in the rural area, and any incentives or proposals to get horse traffic off public roads by means of providing other riding access to clubs and schools.

In relation to Old Coach Road, we submit that this is already used for horse riding and if this is to increase Council will need to provide a maintenance schedule so that walkers can continue to use

APPENDIX 1

the road also. Horses are hard on the track causing drainage and stability issues that will require more intensive maintenance. As this is a public road, motorbikes and vehicles cannot be kept off it and the farmer uses this road to access his farm by motorbike, so safety signage may be necessary.

We apologise for the lateness of this submission.

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