

Key Points

- Bill should encourage residents' maintenance of the Town Belt
- Bill should allow for land swaps that increase net area
- For avoidance of doubt, the Bill should state that cycling is an activity to be supported and encouraged in the Town Belt
- Inconsistencies between Bill and Town Belt Management Plan require formal update of Plan within months of the Bill being enacted

Town Belt Bill

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Access to and maintenance of Town Belt

- The Town Belt is an important part of Newtown. The tracks, roads, and routes in the Town Belt are important for walkers, cyclists, and for some residents' access to their homes.
- The Council should support and encourage residents' work to maintain or improve parts of the Town Belt for the benefit of all residents, be it by planting, weed removal, or track maintenance.

The Bill should allow long-term managed encroachments and encourage flexible use of licences and leases to support residents who want to donate their time and energy to improving the Town Belt.

Bill should allow for land swaps that increase net area

- The Bill would prevent any further 'rationalisations' of boundaries, short of returning to Parliament for approval.
- To give more flexibility to the Council, while protecting the Town Belt against future loss of land, the Bill should allow for the Town Belt boundaries to be varied by Council without needing to return to Parliament for permission, **so long as each transaction leads to a net increase in the Town Belt's area.**

Cycling

The Bill should state that cycling is an activity to be supported and encouraged in the Town Belt.

- Is cycling a private or public access?
- Is cycling prohibited as 'vehicle access'?

Plan needs an early update

Example: Plan says 'encroachments'; Bill says 'easements' or 'licences'.

8.7.6 Encroachments

A vehicle track, which provides access to the water reservoir off Owen Street, is also used by local residents for drive-on access to several nearby private properties. As the Southern Walkway passes along part of the length of this track, vehicle traffic is not only inappropriate but presents a potential safety hazard. This track also attracts rubbish dumping because it is secluded and accessible by car. A gate has been installed at Owen Street with private vehicle use being phased out over time. No new access is being permitted.

Policy – Encroachments

8.7.6.1 Measures shall be taken to exclude all private vehicle use from the reservoir access track.

The Bill will make Carmichael Rd an **easement** used by Council to maintain the Carmichael Reservoir (public utility). As an easement, the issues of encroachment no longer apply; the Plan must be updated.

Council map:
Road is Utility, not Encroachment

