

Public Access to Tinakori Hill Town Belt

Introduction

I wish to talk about the matter raised in the appendix of my written submission. I have lived in Cecil Road for over 30 years. I'm a Life Member of the Tararua Tramping Club and have done many walks and tramps throughout the Wellington Town Belt often using public transport connections. I specifically choose to lead trips on and about Tinakori Hill that include the heritage and special interest sites.

Map 1

My particular concern in this submission is a short track off the Ridgeway Track very close to the West-East Connector track that leads to the city. This map from the Tinakori Hill Landscape Plan shows the tracks. The one I am referring to is here and currently designated 'no longer required'. This designation is because it now exits on to a shared private driveway between 173 and 175 Cecil Road.

Map 2

The importance of this short track to walkers and runners (both recreational as well as commuters) and also some sports clubs is best explained using another map.

- the track leaves the Ridgeway Track at its lowest point on the ridgeline and very close to the point where the recently established West-East Connector meets the Ridgeline Walkway
- there is a walkway near 175 Cecil Road that leads down to Edgeware Road and it's a short distance via Euston Road to the bus stop on Mairangi Road.
- the track provides easy access to Tinakori Hill for many households on the western side of the hill
- there is no alternative access between Weld St and the end of Cecil Road on the northwest side of the hill compared to three access points in close proximity further south (Monmouth Way, Huntingdon St, Glamorgan St)
- the track provides easy access between Tinakori Hill and the eastern end of Otari-Wilton Bush off Churchill Drive
- the track has historical significance as the old Maori track from Pipitea Park to Makara beach passed very close to it.

In the past the track was shown on the WCC Town Planning Dept map Walkways and Paths 1985. There appeared to be council access up the driveway to the water tanks just inside the Town Belt behind house numbers 173, 163A and 163B. Is this access still current and could public access be added to it?

If not, I would like the Council to negotiate with the affected owners some form of public access provision for walkers to gain access from Cecil Road to the lower end of the track. Perhaps a possible swap of a small part of the Town Belt in exchange for public access up the driveway.

Road Encroachment and Sale Policy Submission

In addition to the first two paragraphs of my written submission I note that cars parked on Road Reserve incur no fee. There are at least five parked opposite my house. So I pay an Encroachment fee to keep my car off the road while other people can park on the road or road reserve for nothing.