

Memorandum

5 June 2019

To: Environment and Community Committee, the Independent Māori Statutory Board and all local boards

Subject: Update on kauri dieback management, including track upgrade plan for the Waitākere Ranges

From: Gael Ogilvie, General Manager Environmental Services
Rachel Kelleher, Regional Parks Manager

Purpose

- To provide an update on:
 - kauri dieback management in the Waitākere and Hunua Ranges Regional Parks over the past twelve months, including the track upgrade plan for the Waitākere Ranges
 - Auckland Council's wider kauri dieback management programme.

Summary

- In May 2018, Auckland Council closed nine high risk tracks in the Hunua Ranges Regional Park and the entire forested area of the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park, except for 34 tracks, to manage the spread of kauri dieback.*
- Compliance monitoring on closed tracks shows high levels of compliance overall. For most of the last 12 months Auckland Council has focused on encouraging voluntary compliance. Regulatory enforcement has recently been introduced to support this.*
- Since the closures, maintenance or upgrades have been completed on 20 open tracks in the Hunua Ranges, Waitākere Ranges and other regional parks to ensure tracks remain at required standards.*
- Eight closed tracks have also been re-opened following upgrade works in Waitākere Ranges Regional Park.*
- The result of these works is that 18km more of track are now open to the public and upgraded to kauri safe standard, with up to 26 kms expected to be kauri safe by 30 June 2019.*
- In February 2019 public consultation was undertaken on a plan for prioritising further track upgrades within Waitākere Ranges Regional Park. A strong theme from this consultation was a desire to see more recreational access to the ranges (see report on feedback in appendix A).*
- Based on this feedback, staff have now confirmed the final track upgrade plan for the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park (Appendix B). The main change to the plan is the inclusion of more tracks for re-opening, including Spragg's Bush, Cutty Grass and McElwain Lookout Tracks. Several other tracks have also been identified for further investigative work to determine options for partial re-opening. Te Kawerau ā Maki supports the plan.*
- Across the region, local parks have been prioritised for track upgrades based on kauri ecosystem value and recreational use (see Appendix C). Tracks in 17 local parks have been closed and another 29 local parks will be fully or partially closed over the next fortnight.*
- Scoping is almost complete to assess track upgrade requirements in high priority local board areas. Local board approvals for these works will be sought from July to December 2019.*
- The National Pest Management Plan for kauri dieback has been presented to Cabinet and is expected to be operative by late 2019. Some elements of the plan are more stringent than previously signalled and may require the closure of some additional tracks in local parks. Staff will provide further updates on the implications of the National Pest Management Plan for the Council's budgets and land management approach once confirmed.*

Context/Background

2. In April 2018, the Environment and Community Committee resolved to close high-risk tracks within the Hunua Ranges Regional Park and forested areas of the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park to respond to the on-going spread and impacts of kauri dieback (ENV/2018/44).
3. Track and park closures were implemented from 1 May 2018, at the same time as Controlled Area Notices were placed over both the Waitākere and Hunua Ranges regional parkland by the Ministry for Primary Industries. A Controlled Area Notice is a mechanism under the Biosecurity Act that places controls to manage the movement of risk material, in this instance soil, across open tracks and parkland
4. When they approved the closures, the Environment and Community Committee requested that staff report back on the closures and other kauri dieback management activities after twelve months.
5. This memo provides an update on park and track closures, and the proposed track upgrade strategy for the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park (see Appendix A). It also provides an update on recent developments in the wider regional context for kauri dieback management.

Discussion

Waitākere and Hunua Ranges Regional Parks: Compliance with closures

6. Since the closures were implemented compliance has been undertaken to enforce the Controlled Area Notices and assist with the closure of tracks. The initial focus was on education to support voluntary compliance, and data collection to monitor visitor responses to the track closures.
7. Over the past 16 months staff have undertaken track monitoring on closed tracks using track counters and cameras. Monitoring has recorded some ongoing use on the majority of tracks although this has been at relatively low levels, with an average of five to six people movements per week. The main exception was Kitekite Track where approximately 19 people movements per week were recorded. As a high-use track this represents less than three per cent of normal use (pre-closure) during that time.
8. Over Easter 2019 a compliance 'blitz' was carried out over four days with up to 30 staff a day in the Hunua and Waitākere Ranges. Overall compliance was high, with only 0.2 per cent non-compliance observed. Over 3,500 people were observed in total. Of these, seven were non-compliant and were issued trespass notices. A further 50 received warning notices based on vehicles parked at closed track locations.
9. The majority of non-compliant visitors spoken to in the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park were local residents.
10. The Licensing and Regulatory Compliance Department have taken over kauri dieback compliance for a 12-month trial period, starting April 2019. Track ambassadors will continue to support the team with education and advocacy over the high usage summer months.

Waitākere and Hunua Ranges Regional Parks: Infrastructure update

Hunua Ranges Regional Park – track closures and upgrades

11. From 1 May 2018, nine high risk tracks were closed in the Hunua Ranges. The focus over the past twelve months has been to ensure that open tracks are maintained to a standard that enables visitors to meet the Controlled Area Notice requirements. This has been achieved through maintenance of open tracks (to ensure they meet 'dry foot' standards) and upgrades to meet current best practice kauri safe standards where required.
12. As shown in Table 1 below maintenance and upgrades have been completed on five tracks and planning work is underway for four more, including the closed Waharau Loop Track.
13. The Hunua Falls have also had two new multi-access cleaning stations designed and installed at the entrance and exit points.

Table 1. Hunua closed track upgrade progress

Track name	Upgrade status	Track status
Wairoa-Cossey Track	Maintenance to keep to kauri safe standard	Open
Cossey Gorge Track	Maintenance to keep to kauri safe standard	Open
Falls Loop Track	Maintenance to keep to kauri safe standard	Open
Wairoa Loop Track	Upgrade to kauri safe standards completed	Open
Suspension Bridge Track	Upgrade to kauri safe standards completed	Open
Massey Track	Works planned	Open (Kauri Loop section remains closed)
Southern Wairoa Loop Track	Works planned	Open
Ernie's Track	Works planned	Open
Waharau Loop Track	Works planned	Remains closed

Waitākere Ranges Regional Park – track closures and upgrades

- The entire forested area of the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park was closed to the public except for 34 tracks which remained open or partially open. The tracks that remained open are subject to a Controlled Area Notice.
- The focus over the past twelve months has been to bring closed tracks to current best practice kauri safe standards so they can be re-opened. All track upgrades include assessment of hygiene station requirements and, where necessary, new stations are being installed. As Table 2 shows, eight closed tracks have been upgraded to kauri safe standards and re-opened.
- Maintenance work has also been carried out on six open tracks to ensure they remain at required standards, particularly as many are experiencing increased use as a result of closures.

Table 2. Progress on Waitākere closed and open track upgrades

Track name	Upgrade status	Track status
Lower Nature Trail	Upgrade to kauri safe standards completed	Re-opened
Kitekite Track	Upgrade to kauri safe standards completed	Re-opened
Byers Walk	Upgrade to kauri safe standards completed	Re-opened
Knutzen Track	Upgrade to kauri safe standards completed	Re-opened
Connect Track (partial from Kitekite Track to top of falls)	Upgrade to kauri safe standards completed	Re-opened
Comans Track	Upgrade to kauri safe standards completed	Re-opened
Zig Zag Track	Upgrade to kauri safe standards completed	Re-opened
Mercer Bay Loop	Maintenance to keep to kauri safe standard	Open
Lake Wainamu Track	Maintenance to keep to kauri safe standard	Open
Beveridge Track	Maintenance to keep to kauri safe standard	Open
Arataki Lookout Track	Maintenance to keep to kauri safe standard	Open
Upper Nature Trail	Maintenance to keep to kauri safe standard	Open
Upper Nihotupu Walk	Maintenance to keep to kauri safe standard	Open

Waitākere Ranges – Consultation on track re-openings

17. In February 2019, a public consultation process was carried out to seek feedback on a draft plan for re-opening tracks in the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park from 2019/2020 onwards.
18. The plan proposed tracks for upgrade work and reopening over a five-year work programme. The purpose of the consultation process was to seek feedback on how the public would like to see the listed tracks prioritised for opening and whether there were any additional tracks that should be included or removed from the plan.
19. Over 700 pieces of feedback were received during the eight-week consultation period, through various channels, including an online survey, community meetings and drop-in sessions, and one-on-one meetings with affected residents. Data and comments from the consultation process were analysed and reported back to Council (see Appendix A) by Buzz Channel, a consultancy with expertise in public engagement processes.
20. A little over a third of submitters (35 per cent) agreed with the proposed track re-opening plan, while 61 per cent disagreed, saying the proposed plan did not provide a good balance between recreational experiences and forest health.
21. Those who felt the proposed plan provided an appropriate balance were generally supportive of the tracks selected for prioritisation and the plan around which tracks would be open over the next five years. They also felt the proposed plan balanced the need for recreation in the Waitākere Ranges with the need to protect kauri and forest health more broadly.
22. The general sentiment among those who do not feel the current plan provides the right balance, is a desire for more access to the Waitākere Ranges. Very few submitters identified tracks that should be removed from the plan.

Waitākere Ranges – Track re-opening work programme

23. In finalising the list of tracks to be included in the detailed five-year track upgrade work programme (Appendix B) staff have taken into account the submissions received through the public consultation process and input from Te Kawerau ā Maki and workshop discussions with the Waitākere Ranges Local Board. This combined feedback has been considered alongside criteria aimed at supporting forest health and reducing the spread of kauri dieback disease.
24. Staff have also considered alignment with the National Pest Management Plan being developed by the Ministry of Primary Industries, which includes mandatory standards for management agencies and landowners.
25. In developing the timing of track work in the plan, operational factors have also been considered, such as:
 - would the proposed works require consent
 - current contractor and staff capacity
 - opportunities to deliver works in an efficient manner whilst also ensuring a good geographic spread of work, recognising the local importance of many tracks.
26. The main changes to the plan, following public feedback are the inclusion eight additional tracks including Spragg's Bush, Cutty Grass and McElwain Lookout Tracks for re-opening within the next five years. Further investigative work is planned for some additional tracks identified as important to the community where partial track openings may be possible.
27. The plan is supported by Te Kawerau ā Maki.
28. As shown in Appendix B, most of the tracks which have not been included for upgrades in the next five years either:
 - a. run through areas of high value, non-symptomatic kauri or are in the inner forest area, meaning that re-opening them would be inconsistent with the biosecurity approach and principles of the rāhui
 - b. were only mentioned by a very small number of submitters (less than 15) as a priority for opening.

29. No decisions have been made on whether tracks not included in the five-year track upgrade plan will be permanently closed. This will be considered as part of the Regional Parks Management Plan review starting in 2020.

Kauri dieback management in other regional parks

30. Staff have assessed and are implementing kauri dieback mitigation measures throughout other regional parks with kauri. As shown in Table 3 upgrades or maintenance have been completed or are underway on nine tracks in Tawharanui, Shakespear, Wenderholm, Glenfern and Awhitu Regional Parks.

Table 3. Closed track upgrade progress for other regional parks

Regional Park	Track name	Upgrade status	Track status
Tawharanui Regional Park	Tawharanui Ecology Trail	Upgrade underway	Open
Shakespear Regional Park	Waterfall Gully Track (heritage trail)	Upgrade underway	Open
Wenderholm Regional Park	Puhoi Track	Upgrade underway	Open
Wenderholm Regional Park	Perimeter Track	Maintenance underway	Open
Wenderholm Regional Park	Couldrey House Track	Maintenance underway	Open
Glenfern Regional Park	Access Road	Upgrade underway	Open
Awhitu Regional Park	Kauri Track	Upgrade to kauri safe standards completed	Open
Awhitu Regional Park	Dam Loop	Upgrade to kauri safe standards completed	Open
Awhitu Regional Park	Shady Gully Track	Upgrade to kauri safe standards completed	Open

31. In total, across all regional parks staff have carried out upgrades on 8 kilometres of track. Because tracks are closed even if only one section of a longer track requires upgrades to be kauri safe, the result of this work is that an additional 18 kilometres of open track now reaches kauri safe standards.
32. Further works are underway with 26 kilometres expected to be open and at kauri safe standards by the end of the financial year – 30 June 2019.

Local parks update: Prioritisation of kauri dieback mitigation

33. Staff are assessing and implementing kauri dieback mitigation measures in local parks. A more detailed summary of the process being used to prioritise these upgrades is shown in Appendix C.
34. The first step in prioritising local parks for kauri dieback mitigation is to understand the extent and state of kauri on local parks. A desktop review identified 376 local parks with kauri.
35. Parks have been categorised as either:
- Category A – Parks with high or medium kauri ecosystem value and high or medium recreational value (prioritise for temporary closure and track upgrades).
 - Category B – Parks with high or medium kauri ecosystem value but low recreational value.
 - Category C – Parks with low kauri ecosystem value but high recreational value.
 - Category D - Parks with low kauri ecosystem value and low recreational value.

36. Staff are verifying this initial assessment through site visits, and data will be updated in the next few weeks.
37. Five local board areas have been categorised as high priority for kauri mitigation on local parks. These areas have lots of local parks with high ecological and recreational value.
38. Local board areas have been ranked medium or low priority for kauri mitigation if they have fewer parks with high value kauri and high recreational use (more detail regarding this process is shown in Appendix C).
39. A summary of the prioritisation of all 21 local boards is shown in Table 4 below.

Table 4. Prioritisation of local board areas based on potential for kauri dieback mitigation

Local Board Area	Priority	Number of local parks with kauri/kauri ecosystems	Category A Parks
Kaipātiki	High	36	12
Rodney	High	50	10
Upper Harbour	High	31	4
Waiheke	High	16	6
Waitākere Ranges	High	120	11
Franklin	Medium	27	2
Hibiscus and Bays	Medium	11	3
Ōrākei	Medium	9	2
Albert-Eden	Low	11	0
Henderson-Massey	Low	10	1
Howick	Low	3	1
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu	Low	2	0
Manurewa	Low	5	1
Maungakiekie-Tamaki	Low	4	0
Ōtara-Papatoetoe	Low	3	0
Papakura	Low	7	1
Puketāpapa	Low	14	0
Waitematā	Low	7	0
Whau	Low	10	0
Devonport-Takapuna	Low	0	0
Great Barrier Island	Low	0	0

40. Tracks have been temporarily closed in 17 high priority local parks.
41. As a result of further surveying to identify areas in need of protection, tracks in another 29 local parks will be fully or partially closed over the next fortnight.
42. This will provide interim protection until tracks have been upgraded to kauri safe standards.
43. Fieldwork has been completed to inform track upgrade scopes of work in the five high priority local board areas. Draft scoping documents and preliminary cost estimates for capital works are expected by mid-June. Stakeholder and local board workshops to discuss the options are anticipated to be held in July and August 2019.
44. Mana whenua have had input into the prioritisation and mitigation planning through three hui in early 2019, and individually for specific local parks.

Tāmaki Makaurau - Auckland kauri dieback regional programme update

Surveillance

45. The Auckland region has a rolling surveillance programme that is repeated every five years. In the next financial year the following areas will be surveyed:
 - local parks from south of the Harbour Bridge to Franklin (excluding regional parks such Hunua and Awhitu)
 - local parks in western Auckland
 - the gulf islands.

46. Scheduled surveillance will show changes in the distribution of kauri dieback symptoms over time. The lag time between trees becoming infected and showing symptoms is uncertain but thought to be several years. Therefore, the extent of the disease is likely to be more widespread than shown in previous surveys.
47. An update on the results of surveillance in 2018/2019 will be provided by October 2019.

Treatment and research

48. Phosphite is being experimentally trialed to better understand its potential as a treatment for kauri dieback disease in different situations. Treatment protocols will be updated in response to new information. Current trials include:
 - As a treatment for large stands of diseased kauri. A long-term field trial in the Piha catchment is monitoring the progression of disease symptoms trees treated with phosphite. In 2018/2019 the Council treated 7,019 trees.
 - As a treatment for individual trees and small stands.
 - As a barrier to prevent disease spread into healthy stands.

Hygiene stations

49. 11 high volume hygiene stations have been installed to support track openings and biosecurity requirements, including one station at the Pier 2 Ferry terminal.
50. Over 300 hygiene stations on council land will be replaced with stations that meet the standards of the new National Pest Management Plan for kauri dieback over the next two years from 2019 to 2021.
51. Additional specialist hygiene station designs are being tested for bikes and vehicle wash downs at council depots and ferry terminals.

Communications and engagement

52. There have been two communications focus periods in the last 12 months:
 - communications around the closures in May 2018
 - communications over the summer period from 1 December 2018 to 30 April 2019.
53. Key messages through these periods have been:
 - building awareness of park and track closures
 - scrub, spray and stay
 - promotion of alternative park destinations
 - Kitekite track re-opening
 - Easter compliance blitz.
54. During the May 2018 closure phase, publicity across the channels was driven by reaction to the decision, with media widely covering both sides of the story. The resulting outcome was broad coverage reaching an approximate 2 million readers, listeners and viewers.
55. The May marketing campaign included radio, print ads, social media (Facebook), digital display banners, letterbox flyers and ads in response to searches – this achieved 9.7 million impressions and 23,400 click throughs and reached a total of 490,100 people.
56. The summer 2018/19 campaign included radio, press ads, OurAuckland, social (Facebook and Instagram), digital display banners and ads in response to searches. Together this achieved 2.56 million impressions and reached 615,000 people.
57. A 'Keep Kauri Standing' e-newsletter is dispatched monthly to around 1,000 Aucklanders who have indicated interest in the Waitākere and Hunua Ranges tracks.

Engagement and Education 2018/19

58. A series of free public science talks has been held at Arataki Visitor Centre in 2019, with invited speakers from research institutes outlining their research projects into kauri dieback disease.

Each session has seen a full venue, and has been live-streamed on social media, with an average of close to 700 views per talk so far.

59. More than 30 full, and part-time kauri dieback ambassadors have worked across the Auckland region to educate and engage the public. This has included the Waitākere and Hunua Ranges, northern regional parks, Waiheke Island, Great Barrier Island, and at wharves at Half Moon Bay, Devonport, and downtown Auckland, to engage with visitors heading to the Hauraki Gulf islands.
60. Staff have also attended many events over the past year, including the Eye on Nature schools' event, the Kauri Karnival, Matariki events, Sculpture on the Gulf on Waiheke, mountain biking, running, and orienteering events across the region. Nearly 20 schools have also been engaged.

Kauri dieback National Pest Management Plan update

61. The Kauri Dieback National Programme is developing a National Pest Management Plan for kauri dieback. Auckland Council has two members on the governance group that has overseen the process. Biosecurity New Zealand (Ministry for Primary Industries) have led extensive public consultation on the plan – a summary of feedback is available on the kauri dieback website: <https://www.kauridieback.co.nz/consultation/>
62. The National Pest Management Plan proposal has been presented to Cabinet and is expected to come into effect in September or October 2019.
63. A new management agency is likely to be set up to lead implementation of the National Pest Management Plan. The nature of this agency has still not been finalised.
64. Auckland Council will be a key partner in the formation of a regional coordination group that will deliver the National Pest Management Plan priorities within the Auckland region. It is not yet clear what decision-making mandate the regional committee will have. However, there is a clearly signaled shift towards a model of multi-party shared decision-making.
65. The plan proposes that the Treaty partnership is front and center and is reflected at all levels.

National Pest Management Plan implications for Auckland Council's land management

66. Rules within the National Pest Management Plan will affect council's autonomy in decisions as a land manager.
67. The proposal that has gone to Cabinet contains stricter track standard requirements than had been signaled earlier in the plan development process. All public tracks through kauri forest will have to meet kauri safe standards as soon as the plan is operative (i.e. late 2019), or else be closed. Earlier drafts of the plan allowed three years for tracks to be upgraded to the standard.
68. Most kauri forest tracks on regional parks are already either closed or upgraded, therefore will be unaffected by the rule.
69. Local park tracks with medium or high kauri ecosystems value are already recommended for closure and upgrade and therefore are also unaffected (97 parks).
70. Local park tracks that are most likely to be affected by the track standards rule are tracks in parks with low kauri ecosystem value but high recreational value (Category C in Appendix C, 91 parks).
71. It is also possible that some tracks in local parks with low kauri ecosystem value and low recreational value (189 parks) may be affected, although this is not yet confirmed.
72. Staff will provide further advice on the impact of the new standards on the council's prioritisation of closures and track upgrades once the National Pest Management Plan is confirmed.

Financial implications

73. Auckland Council is forecasting an investment of \$4.8 million into kauri dieback management for the 2018/2019 financial year to date.
74. The vast majority of this funding comes from the natural environment targeted rate – which has significantly increased the council's budget for kauri dieback management activities.
75. This includes \$2.3 million capital expenditure on track upgrades and other infrastructure works, including \$1.84 million on regional parks and \$630,000 on local parks. Most areas of expenditure

are tracking to forecast, although local park infrastructure upgrades are behind in spend due to time required to assess assets, set up new systems and facilitate local board decision-making.

76. The council has also invested \$2.5 million of operational expenditure, including
- surveillance and monitoring - \$130,000
 - treatment and research - \$241,000
 - compliance, engagement and behaviour change - \$1,429,000
 - tracks upgrade regional parks opex - \$616,000
 - tracks upgrade local parks opex - \$73,000.
77. The council will invest a further \$5.15 million opex and \$10.15 million capex into kauri dieback management in 2019/2020. The largest areas of investment will be track upgrades and behaviour change initiatives, including enforcement of closures and public education.

Risks and mitigations

78. Effective management of kauri dieback spread and impacts continues to be affected by a variety of risks. Key risks are summarised in Table 5 below.

Table 5. Key risks to kauri dieback programme

Risk description	Risk type, likelihood and consequence	Mitigation
New National Pest Management Plan track standards may increase cost of track upgrades and require more tracks to stay closed for longer.	Likelihood: High Consequence: High Risk type: Financial, Reputational	Staff will assess and close tracks to ensure the council is compliant with the new standard. Further prioritisation of track upgrades may be required to adjust the timing of upgrades, including consideration of recreational value of some tracks.
Unknown lag time between disease spread and observable symptoms, which limits our understanding of disease distribution and how effective various management options are. Lag time means surveillance will continue to measure increased spread, despite council's activity.	Likelihood: High Consequence: High Risk type: Operations, Reputational, Environmental	Focus on spread prevention, based on best available knowledge. Continue adaptive management approach and trial new management approaches in collaboration with research agencies.
Current approach inadequate to protect urban kauri where public land can be accessed from multiple points on private land.	Likelihood: High Consequence: Medium Risk type: Operations	Develop new compliance, educational and infrastructure upgrade measures specific to urban situations.
Constrained contractor market for track upgrades to kauri safe standards	Likelihood: High Consequence: Medium Risk type: Operations	Upskill wider contractor pool using Project 17 full facilities maintenance contractors. Ensure quality through prescriptive engineering standards and increased training and audit capacity. Upskill regional parks staff and contractors to deliver less complex track mitigations.

Risk description	Risk type, likelihood and consequence	Mitigation
Risks to other recreation areas through the displacement of visitors from closed kauri areas. This may place pressure on parks infrastructure including ongoing maintenance costs. In addition, it may impact on visitor experience.	Likelihood: High Consequence: Medium Risk type: Environmental, Reputational	Staff will engage in a regional planning process to identify recreational areas which are being most impacted and may require additional investment in infrastructure or a higher level of maintenance.

Next steps/implementation

- 79. 71 kilometres of track network is scheduled to be upgraded across regional parks in 2019/2020, including tracks in Waitākere Ranges, Hunua and Awhitu Regional Parks.
- 80. The forward work programme for local park track upgrades will be confirmed in August 2019. Tracks within 43 high priority Category A local parks will be scheduled for works across the next two years.
- 81. Further work is required to assess the implications of the forthcoming National Pest Management Plan for track upgrade priorities and other budgeted spend. Staff will assess the implications of the track standards rule for local parks, and a small number of regional park tracks that might be affected (e.g. Hunua).
- 82. This work will be completed by August 2019 to inform future local board decision-making. Staff will seek approval from local boards for additional track closures and track upgrade priorities.
- 83. Staff will also provide an update to the appropriate committee on implications of the National Pest Management Plan at a regional level for council’s approach to kauri dieback management.
- 84. Finally, the next annual update on kauri dieback management will be provided in June 2020.

Attachments

- Appendix A:** Feedback report on proposed track upgrades in Waitākere Ranges Regional Park
- Appendix B:** Track upgrade plan for Waitākere Ranges Regional Park
- Appendix C:** Local parks track upgrade prioritisation process

Track re-opening plan for Waitākere Ranges

Feedback from public consultation



Prepared for
Auckland Council
April 2019

Prepared by
Buzz Channel Ltd
(09) 379 8920



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Executive summary

This report outlines community feedback on the proposed track re-opening plan for the Waitākere Ranges in response to the threat posed from Kauri Dieback disease. Input was received through feedback forms (661 online and 20 hard copy forms), letters and correspondence from 47 groups and individuals, two community meetings, two drop-in sessions and one-on-one meetings with affected residents.

A little over a third of submitters (35%) agree with the current proposed track re-opening plan, while 61% disagree, saying the current plan does not provide a good balance of recreation experiences and forest health.

Submitters living in the Waitākere Ranges area are less likely to agree that the plan is a good balance and instead are more likely to disagree (71% of Waitākere residents feel the proposed plan doesn't provide a good balance).

Those who do feel the current plan provides an appropriate balance are generally supportive of the tracks selected for prioritisation, and the plan around which tracks would be open over the next five years. They feel that the current plan adequately balances the need for recreation in the Waitākere Ranges with the need to protect kauri and forest health more broadly. Some however offered more 'qualified' support and suggested several other tracks they felt should be prioritised.

The general sentiment among those who do not feel the current plan provides the right balance, is a desire for more access to the Waitākere Ranges.

Submitters (particularly local residents) expressed a deep sense of grief and loss regarding the current closure of the ranges. People feel a strong connection to the forest and use it as a way to connect with nature, get some exercise in the outdoors and reduce stress levels. Because of this, they feel the current track closures deprive them of this connection and have a significant impact on their well-being. Hence a high proportion of submitters believe the re-opening plan isn't providing sufficient access to the park, or at the very least isn't being delivered fast enough. While they value kauri and the environment, they would prefer to see more tracks being opened, more quickly, and with a focus on the local residents/ communities and their well-being.

The three most commonly mentioned reasons for feeling the proposed plan does not provide the right balance of recreation experiences and forest health are:

- A sense that the proposed tracks do not provide enough variety (28%), with requests for longer tracks, loop tracks and tracks through the centre of the park
- Disagreement with the track priorities proposed and a view that other tracks (see details below) should be re-opened or upgraded (26%)
- Impact on local communities and personal well-being (25%)

A quarter (25%) suggest that there are too many tracks marked for closure, and that this will put undue strain on the tracks left open. Others simply do not believe that humans are the main vector

for spreading kauri dieback (20%), feel that the five-year timeframe is too long (15%), or mention a number of other similar points.

A smaller proportion of submitters disagree with the proposed plan for the opposite reason - they believe that more needs to be done to protect kauri, meaning they would like to see more being done to meet CAN requirements and control entry (12%), they believe that conservation of the ranges should take priority over recreation so the area can be enjoyed and preserved for future generations (6%), or they mention they support the rahui and that closing the area is the right thing to do (5%).

Sixty-two per cent of submitters mentioned at least one track that isn't in the current work programme that they believe should be included. A common reason for these track suggestions is to provide more loop tracks, link tracks, length variety, and create family-oriented walks for local communities - as being able to access the forest plays a big role in their well-being.

A number of submissions were received from the community in Anawhata and Spraggs Bush in support of opening some of the tracks in their area. These submitters pointed out that access to the Waitākere Ranges is a core reason for choosing to live where they do, but currently they have no local tracks open to them, and this is having a significant impact on their wellbeing.

The five most commonly mentioned tracks support the need for a wider variety of activities, e.g. loop tracks, as well as access for local communities:

- Piha Valley Track
- Cutty Grass Track
- Odilins Timber Track
- Walker Ridge Track
- Spraggs Bush Track

The Hillary Trail was also mentioned by numerous passionate hikers and tramping clubs as being a multi-day tramp vital to the area.

There are a number of tracks in the work programme listed for prioritisation. Feedback on these tracks was similar to the above, with people again mentioning the importance of providing a variety of different walks/tramps (e.g. length, coastal vs bush), loop tracks and access for local communities:

- Fairy Falls Track
- Zion Hill
- Omanawanui Track
- Karamatura Loop Track
- White Track

Overall, the general sentiment from the feedback is that submitters (particularly Waitākere Ranges residents) feel the current re-opening plan does not provide sufficient access to the forest. They are deeply affected by the current closure and feel community well-being needs to be prioritised. Residents and trampers would like to see more track variety (different lengths, loops, links, etc) and

better access for local communities than what the current proposed track plan provides. They would like to see human and community well-being put as a key priority for any decisions moving forward and would like their access into the Waitākere Ranges to be made possible sooner rather than later. While they see the need to protect kauri, many feel that this should not come at the cost of preventing community access to this much treasured taonga.

Item 15

Attachment N

Consultation process

Background

In May 2018, the forested areas of the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park, and 10 higher-risk tracks in the Hunua Ranges Regional Park, were closed to protect trees from kauri dieback disease and prevent its spread. To help finalise this decision the council undertook engagement and consultation with those who use and benefit from the regional park, concessionaries, businesses, recreational groups, and people who live within the Waitākere Ranges.

Since then, Auckland Council has been working closely with the Department of Conservation and Te Kawerau a Maki to confirm the approach needed to bring tracks in the Waitākere Ranges to a standard where they meet national best practice for kauri and support broader forest health. The council is currently working on a track re-opening plan to identify the tracks that will be the focus for improvement work and re-opening over the next couple of years.

Process

In January 2019, Auckland Council began a public consultation process seeking community feedback on priorities for track upgrades and re-opening beyond the current 2019 work programme already in progress. More specifically, Auckland Council sought to:

- Gather feedback on the proposed future work/track plan (see appendix);
- Identify tracks that should be included in the work programme that aren't currently;
- Identify specific tracks for prioritisation;
- Identify any tracks that shouldn't be included in the work programme.

Auckland Council consulted with the public through the following ways:

- An online feedback form distributed through various channels including Auckland Council's Have your Say website, Regional Parks and Auckland Council media/social media channels, etc;
- A hard copy feedback form distributed at community meetings, the Arataki Visitor Centre, etc;
- Email and letter submissions accepted through a designated Kauri feedback inbox;
- Community meetings in Piha (February 7th) and Titirangi (February 21st);
- Drop-in sessions in Huia (February 23rd) and at the Arataki Visitor Centre (February 28th);
- One-on-one discussions between park rangers and other council staff and affected community members.

The consultation process, which ran from **18 January to 15 March 2019**, gathered 728 pieces of public feedback, and included 661 online and 20 hard copy feedback forms, 46 email/letter submissions from groups and individuals, one petition signed by 106 Spraggs Bush residents, and notes/feedback from two community meetings and two drop-in sessions.

The feedback, which has been collated and analysed by Buzz Channel, is presented in this report.

Feedback on the proposed track plan

Balance between recreation experiences and forest health

35% of participants agree that the council’s proposed track plan provides a good balance between providing recreation experiences and maintaining forest health. 61% disagree, saying that the proposed track plan isn’t a good balance.



Base: n=681 online/hard copy submissions. 4% were blank

Only a quarter (26%) of participants from the Waitākere Ranges local board area feel the track plan provides a good balance, compared to 38% of those living outside the Waitākere area. Almost three quarters (71%) of Waitākere residents feel the plan doesn’t provide a good balance.

Frequent visitors to the Waitākere Ranges were also less likely to feel the plan provides a good balance – 21% of those visiting daily and 32% of those visiting weekly, compared to 48% of those who visit monthly or less often.

Looking at the comments for the reasons why submitters agree or disagree with the balance of the proposed track plan, we can approximate that of the 681 online/hard copy submissions, 50% disagree and would like more access while 9% disagree but would like more closures/ control. Conversely, we can also approximate that 13% agree that the plan is a good balance, and a further 11% also agree but had some sort of suggestion for improvement or priority. *Other comments were blank or did not explain why they agreed or disagreed with the proposed plan. Note, this is an approximation of submitters comments and hence is slightly different to the ratings above.*



- Agree - the plan is a good balance
- Agree - but have a few suggestions/ problems/ ideas for priorities
- Disagree - want more access
- Disagree - want more closures/ control

Base: n=681 online/hard copy submissions. 17% were blank or had no comment as to why they agree or disagree.

Top reasons for disagreement Base: n=418 those who disagreed with the balance of the proposed plan.



28% | Not enough variety of tracks/ not deep enough into the ranges/ need more loops



26% | Disagree with priorities - other tracks should be upgraded/ reopened



25% | Impact on the local community/ personal well-being is affected

The general view from the public meetings and from the letters and feedback forms received is that people (residents in particular) are grieving very deeply about the loss of access to the ranges. People feel a very strong personal connection to the forest and are upset about not being able to use the Waitākere, walk and run on the tracks, take their family and friends into the ranges, or use the forest as way to connect with nature and reduce the stress of their daily lives. They feel a deep sense of loss and view the current track closures as having a significant impact on their well-being. The general sentiment from these people is that the proposed re-opening plan does not provide them with sufficient access to the park, or at least does not provide access within the timeframe they would like. While they value the kauri and don't want to see kauri become extinct, they would prefer more tracks to be opened, more quickly, with an emphasis on human and community well-being.

One of the main themes that emerged from participants in disagreement with the balance of recreation and forest health in the proposed re-opening plan is that there isn't enough variety of tracks, particularly loop tracks, longer tracks and tracks through the heart/interior of the ranges. There is some feedback from submitters that the current plan only provides basic walks and doesn't enable a range of walks where you can start and finish in the same spot without having to walk back and forth on the same track (i.e. a desire for loop tracks).

Other submitters simply disagreed with the list of priority tracks and suggested different tracks that should be upgraded or reopened (priorities will be explored more thoroughly in the next section).

A quarter of those who disagreed with the proposed plan, saying it wasn't a good balance between recreation and forest health, mentioned the impact on the community – in particular the effects on mental health and well-being. Some also mentioned the need for a focus on the needs of local residents rather than tourists – residents of Anawhata and Spraggs Bush in particular mentioned the need for access to tracks in their local area (this will be discussed in more detail in the next section).

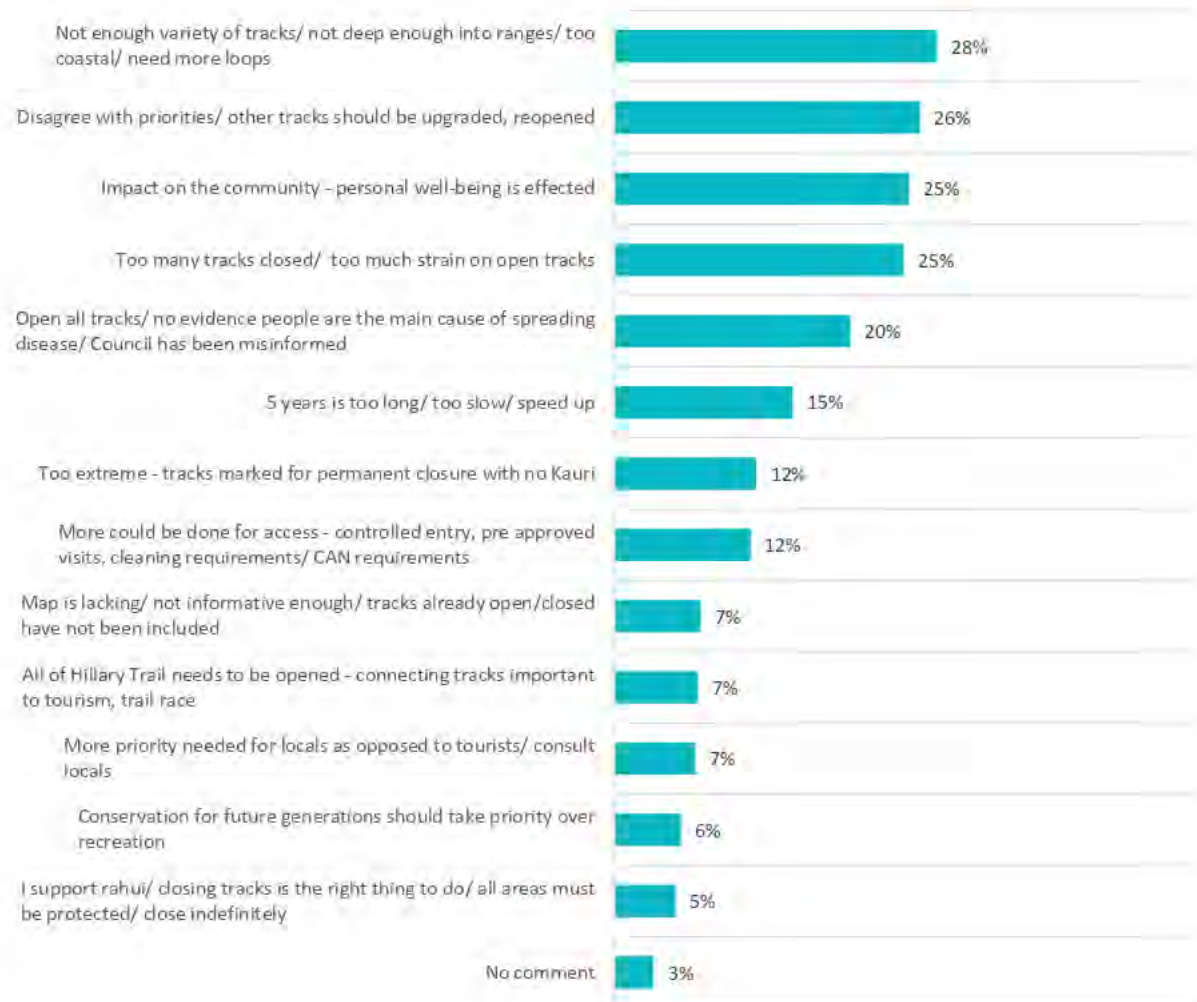
Both these sentiments were strongly reflected at the Piha and Titirangi community meetings. As described above, local residents feel a deep personal connection to the ranges and are grieving about the loss of access and the impact this is having on their well-being (and the well-being of their family).

Additionally, quite a few of the longer email/letter submissions were from a range of Auckland based tramping clubs that feel passionately about longer walks and the benefit that having access to the forest has on their own well-being, reinforcing the above themes.

Other reasons for disagreement

Tell us more about why you agree/disagree with the tracks shown in the plan:

Base: n=418 those who disagreed with the balance of the proposed plan.



Another theme mentioned by a quarter of those who disagree with the proposed track plan is that there are too many tracks marked for closure, and that this will put strain on the ones left open. Other themes mentioned include those wanting to open all tracks as they believe there is no evidence of kauri dieback, some believing the closures are too extreme/unnecessary as some tracks have no kauri on them, and concerns/issues with the 5-year timeframe being too long.

A few participants at the Piha and Titirangi workshops also mentioned that there needs to be greater consideration and protection of the historical value of the Waitākere Ranges and its tracks. This was supported by a small portion of participants in the online feedback and was mentioned in a few letter submissions.

There was also a concern expressed about how the tracks are being upgraded. There are a few trampers who don't want to lose the natural experience of walking through the bush by having to walk on gravel and/or boardwalks.

It should also be noted that there are a portion of submitters who had a different view to the themes discussed above. These participants also don't agree with the balance of the proposed track plan but want to see more tracks closed - 12% of those who don't agree believe more could be done to meet CAN requirements and control entry, 6% believe that conservation of the Ranges should take priority over recreation so the area can be enjoyed and preserved for future generations, and 5% mentioned they support the rahui and that closing the area was the right thing to do. A few even mentioned that the area should be closed indefinitely. These ideas were also supported by a small number of people at the community meetings.

Reasons for agreement

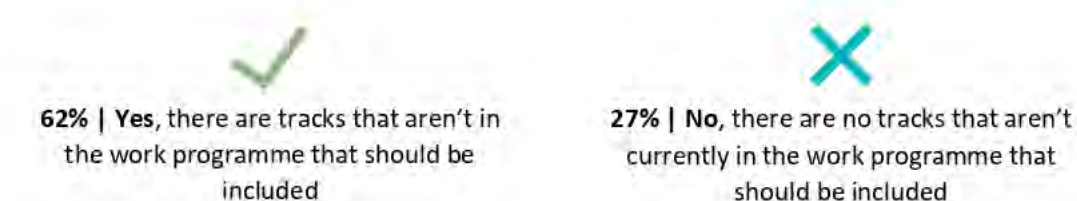
35% of online/hard copy submitters agreed that the proposed track plan provides a good balance of forest health and recreational experiences. Reasons for agreeing reinforced general support for the plan and track selection, and some participants mentioned it was good to know what tracks are open now and what will be open in the future.

Some of those that agreed with the plan still had a few suggestions for other tracks that should be prioritised or re-opened. These suggestions echoed the themes mentioned by those who disagree with the balance of the plan around enabling more variety, length and loops, etc.

Tracks to be included in the work programme

Tracks submitters would like to see included in the future work programme

62% of submitters said that there are tracks that aren't currently included in the future work programme that they believe should be. Conversely, 27% had no suggestions for other tracks outside of the ones already included in the work programme.



Base: n=681 online/hard copy submissions. 11% were blank

Similar to the differences between those who think the proposed plan is a good balance versus those who don't, submitters who have suggestions for tracks to be included are more likely to be living in the immediate Waitākere Ranges local board area (75% have suggestions), and are more likely to visit the area daily (75% have suggestions) or weekly (73% have suggestions). Submitters living in the wider Auckland region and visiting monthly or less regularly are less likely to give suggestions.

There are a number of specific tracks suggested by submitters for inclusion into the work programme (shown in the chart below). There are also some commonly mentioned reasons for wanting these tracks included.

One theme/concern mentioned by submitters was that all currently open tracks (which are now being used heavily) need to be included into the work programme so they can be brought up to the CAN standards.

In line with feedback above, a number of submitters want access to loop tracks, linking tracks, a variety of tracks of different lengths, and those that enable family access to the Waitākere Ranges, and hence they mentioned tracks that deliver these things. Submitters also mentioned the need for local access to the ranges, and the impact track closures are having on community well-being. Hence, they requested a number of tracks be included in the future work programme.

The five most commonly mentioned tracks support the need for a wider variety of activities, e.g. loop tracks, as well as access for local communities:

- Piha Valley Track
- Cutty Grass Track
- Odlin Timber Track
- Walker Ridge Track
- Spraggs Bush Track

The Hillary Trail was also mentioned by numerous passionate hikers and tramping clubs as being a multi-day tramp vital to the area.

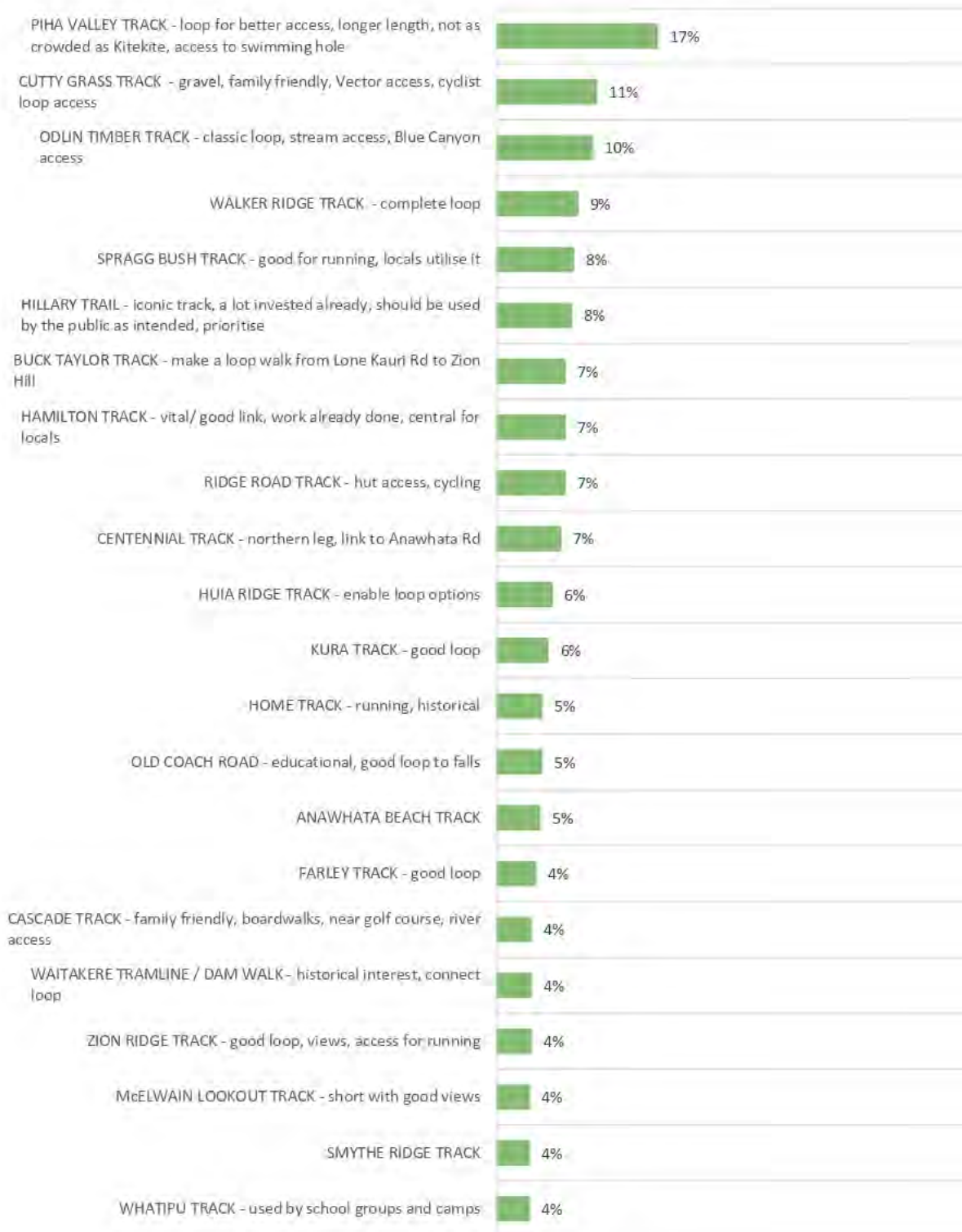
The prioritisation of local communities is a theme that has been commonly mentioned throughout the consultation process. Local residents feel priority is being given to tourists instead of focusing on the needs of the Waitākere Ranges community and their access to the bush/tracks.

A number of submissions were received from the community in Anawhata in support of opening tracks in their area. These submitters pointed out that access to the Waitākere Ranges is vital to their community as its main amenity and a core reason for choosing to live where they do, but currently they have no local tracks open to them, and this is having a significant impact on their well-being.

In a similar vein, Spraggs Bush residents sent through a petition signed by 106 members of the community in support of opening tracks in the area. They also feel that the lack of access to their local tracks is having a significant impact on their community and well-being.

Tracks submitters would like to see included in the future work programme

Base: n=422 (yes, I think a track should be included) PLUS 28 email/letter submissions.

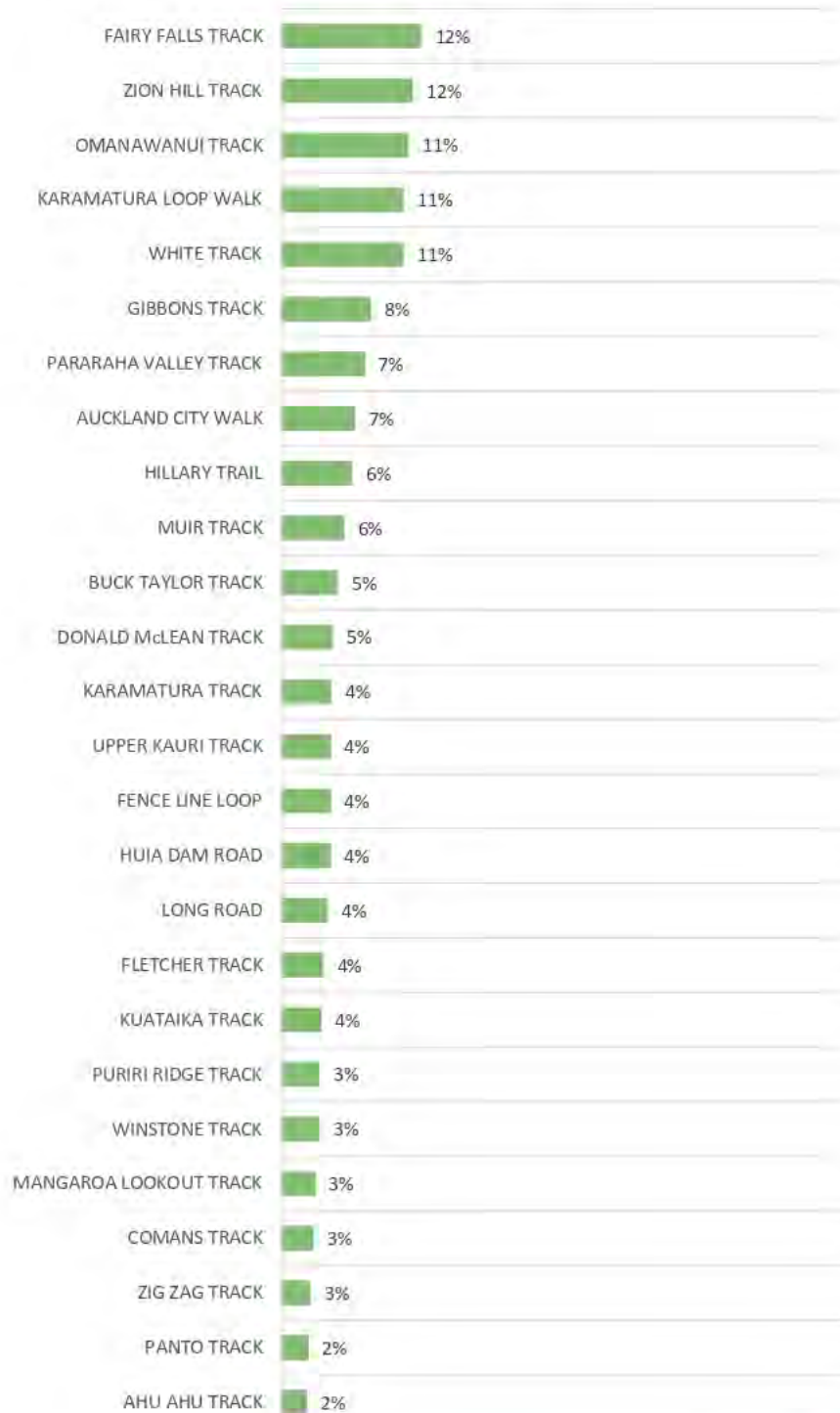


*Other tracks were mentioned by less than 15 submitters

Tracks to be prioritised

Tracks in the future work programme submitters would like to see prioritised

Base: n=681 PLUS 20 email/letter submissions.



**Other tracks were mentioned by less than 15 submitters*

There are a number of tracks in the work programme listed for prioritisation. Feedback on these tracks was similar to the above, with people again mentioning the importance of providing:

- A variety of different walks/tramps (e.g. length, coastal vs bush)
- Creation of loops
- Access for local communities

Tracks to be excluded

Tracks submitters would like to see excluded from the work programme:

Very few submitters gave suggestions on which tracks could be excluded from the work programme all together. 82% had no comment to make on this question or said there were no tracks they would mark for exclusion.

Of those who did comment, 4% mentioned the Karekare to Whatipu route – suggesting this could be rerouted along the beach. Two per cent said that any route with kauri dieback should be rerouted and prioritised for improvement, and the same proportion took the opportunity to reinforce the need to prioritise loop/longer tracks. A small proportion (1%) mentioned that all of the tracks should be closed permanently.

Impacts on local businesses

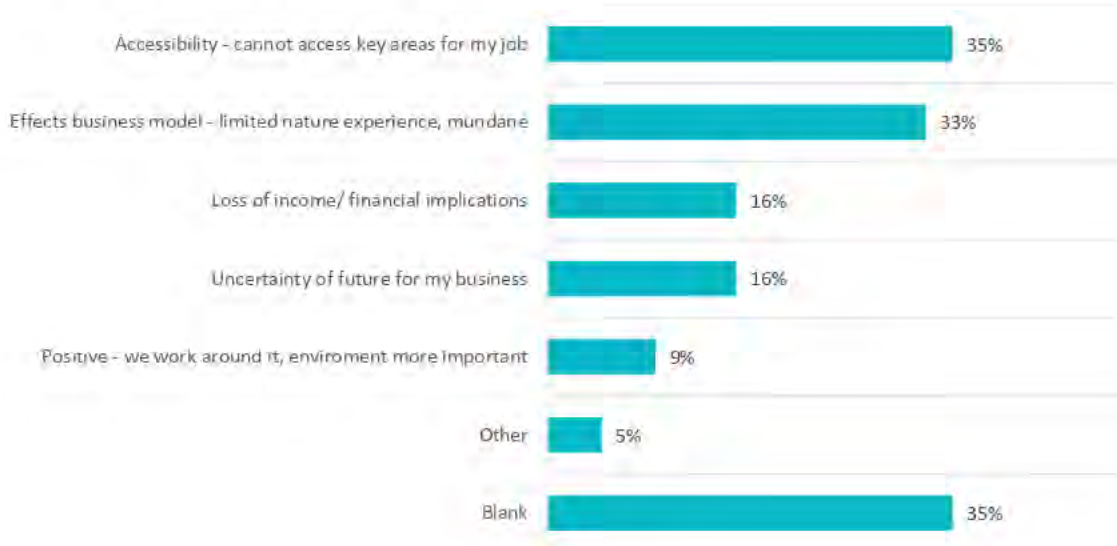
There were 34 online/hard copy submissions from people who are a part of a business in the Waitākere Ranges area. Of these, 41% mentioned that the proposed plan will have a negative outcome once it's complete – while 32% mentioned it will have a positive impact (21% identified that the plan will have no impact).

Impacts on businesses include physical accessibility as their business operates in the ranges, the effect on the business model which used to focus around the nature of the Ranges, loss of income due to the closures, and uncertainty around the future of businesses operating in the area.

Those who see a positive impact mentioned that it is something they can work around and the focus on the health of the environment is more important.

Please describe the impact on your business:

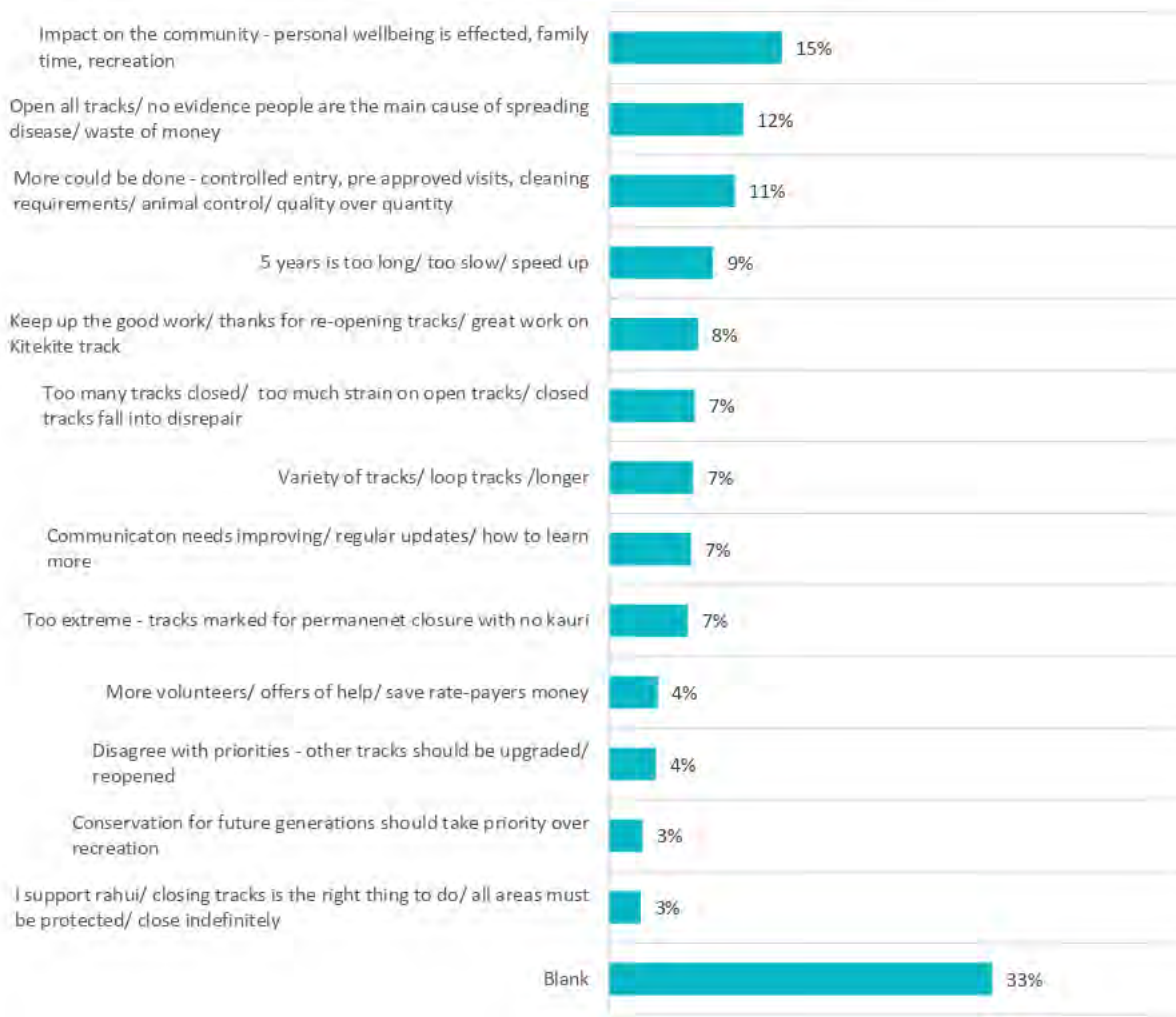
Base: n=34 PLUS 9 email/letter submissions.



Final / additional comments

Final comments from the feedback form reflect the general themes and feelings

Base: n=681 PLUS 9 email/letter submissions.



Profile of submitters

Base: n=681 online/hard copy submissions.

Local board area:

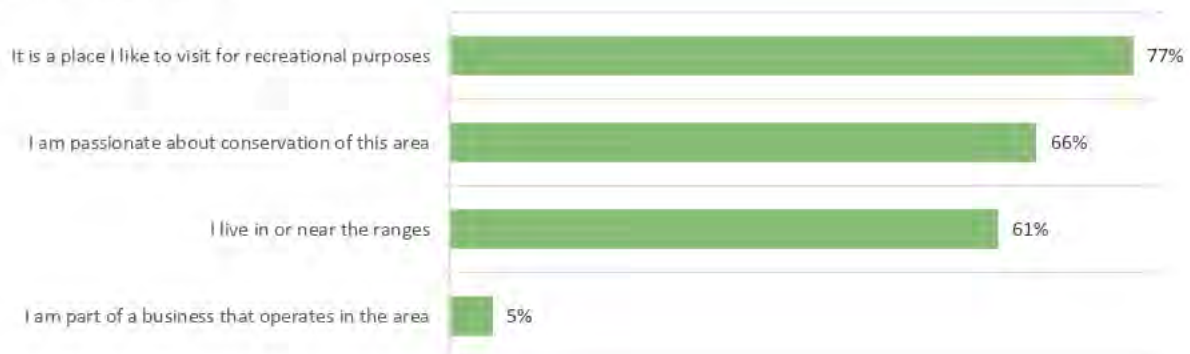


46% | Waitākere Ranges
local board resident

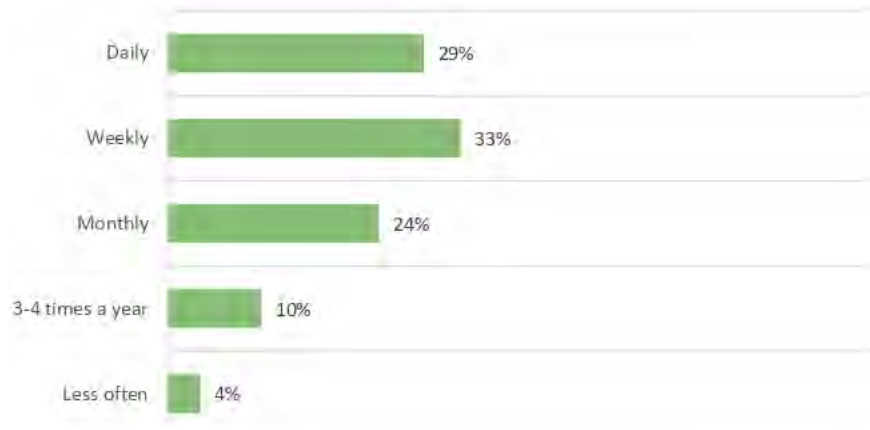


54% | Resident of another
Auckland local board or not known

Interest in the ranges:



Frequency of visits to the ranges:



Appendix

Proposed track plan and online/hard copy feedback form:



Track re-opening plan for Waitākere Ranges
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Draft Track Plan for Waitākere Ranges Regional Park.



The following tracks will remain open or partially open:

Track name	Current status - Jan 2019	Future track status
Anawhata Beach Track	Open	Track to remain open
Arataki Lookout Track	Open	Track to remain open
Arataki Nature Trail	Partially open (Upper Loop)	Track to remain partially open (Upper Loop) Lower Loop confirmed in current work programme
Beveridge Track	Open	Track to remain open
Byers Walk	Open	Track to remain open
Connect Track	Open	Track to remain open
Exhibition Drive (Watercare)	Open	Track to remain open
Huia Dam Road (Watercare)	Open	Track to remain open
Ian Wells Track	Partially open (from Piha Road to Dam)	Track to remain partially open (from Piha Road to Dam only)
Kakamatua Beach Walk	Open	Track to remain open
Kitekite Track	Open	Track to remain open
Knutzen Track	Open	Track to remain open
Laird Thomson Track	Open	Track to remain open
Lake Wainamu Track	Open	Track to remain open
Large Kauri Walk	Open	Track to remain open
Lion Rock Track	Open	Track to remain open
Long Road Track	Partially open (from road end to where paddock meets the forest)	Track to remain partially open (from road end to where paddock meets the forest). The remainder of the track is proposed for future work programme.
Manukau Timber Company Heritage Trail	Open	Track to remain open
Marawhara Walk	Open	Track to remain open
Mercer Bay Loop Track	Open	Track to remain open
Monument Track (Mc Lachlan)	Open	Track to remain open
Orpheus Graves Walk	Open	Track to remain open
Parker Track	Open	Track to remain open
Pipeline Road (Watercare)	Open	Track to remain open
Pohutukawa Glade Walk	Open	Track to remain open
Rose Track	Open	Track to remain open
Spragg Monument Track	Open	Track to remain open
Tarāire Track	Partially open (from road to waterfall)	Track to remain partially open (from road to waterfall only)
Tasman Lookout Track	Open	Track to remain open
Te Henga Walkway (DOC)	Open	Track to remain open
Upper Nihotupu Dam Road (Watercare) and Upper Nihotupu Walk	Open	Track to remain open
Waitakere Dam Walk	Open	Track to remain open
Whatipu Caves Track	Open	Track to remain open

Design and/or construction has been confirmed to begin on the following tracks in the current work programme (2019):

Track name	Current status - Jan 2019	Work programme status
Ahu Ahu Track	Closed	Track confirmed in current work programme
Arataki Nature Trail (Lower Loop)	Partially open (Upper Loop)	Upper Loop to remain open. Lower Loop confirmed in current work programme
Comans Track	Closed	Track confirmed in current work programme
Taitomo Track (between Mercer Bay Loop Track and Tasman Lookout Track)	New track not yet open	Track confirmed in current work programme
Mt Donald McLean Walk	Closed	Track confirmed in current work programme
Pararaha Valley Track	Closed	Track confirmed in current work programme
Slip Track	Closed	Track confirmed in current work programme
Zigzag Track	Closed	Track confirmed in current work programme

Tracks for potential inclusion in our five-year work programme and beyond.

The following tracks have been identified for future re-opening and we are seeking feedback to inform their prioritisation. The information gathered through this process will assist with the development of a detailed five-year work programme and higher level longer term plan which will take into account community preference, opportunities to “bundle” track work for operational efficiency and resources:

In making the decision to reopen tracks the following has and will continue to be considered:

- priority on recreating coastal connectivity, providing for multi-day walking opportunities and kauri-safe access to identified iconic destinations – this is in line with feedback received during public engagement undertaken ahead of the decision to close the forested area of the park
- tracks opened once they are of a standard where they protect and support forest health, in particular prevent the movement of soil to stop the spread of kauri dieback both within and out of the park,
- avoid high value non-symptomatic kauri ecosystems, and
- provide a range of recreational opportunities that where possible are concentrated to the forest edge.

Track name	Current status - Jan 2019	Work programme status
Auckland City Walk	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Buck Taylor Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond (partial - between Pararaha Valley Track and Zion Hill Track only).
Con Bryan Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Donald McLean Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Fairy Falls Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Fence Line Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Fletcher Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Gibbons Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Houghton Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Jubilee Walk	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Karamatura Loop Walk	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Karamatura Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Kauri Grove Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond (partial - between Winstone Track and Connect Track only).
Kuataika Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Long Road Track	Partially open (from road end to where paddock meets the forest)	Part of track to remain open (from road end to where paddock meets the forest). Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond (from where paddock meets the forest to Fence Line Track).
Lower Nihotupu Dam Road	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond. (partial - between Pipeline Road and Huia Road only).
Maungaroa Lookout Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Muir Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Omanawanui Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Opanuku Pipeline Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond (partial - from Mountain Road to the campground only).
Panto Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Parau Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Puriri Ridge Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Signal House Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Upper Kauri Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond

Ussher Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Whatitiri Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
White Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Winstone Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond (partial - from Ussher Track to Kauri Grove Track only).
Zion Hill Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond

The following closed tracks are not proposed as priority for re-opening.

Track name	Current status - Jan 2019	Proposed future status
Anderson Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Arthur Mead Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Browne Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Buck Taylor Track	Closed	Part of the track is proposed in the future work programme (between Pararaha Valley Track and Zion Hill Track). Part of the track is proposed to remain closed (between Zion Hill and Lone Kauri Road).
Cascade Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Cave Rock Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Centennial Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Chateau Mosquito Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Christies Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Clark Bush Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Cowan Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Crusher Pipe Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Cutty Grass Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Destruction Gully Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Dreamlands Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
East Tunnel Mouth Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Farley Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Ferndown Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Filter Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Forbes Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Goat Hill Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Goodfellow Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Hamilton Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Hettig Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Home Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Horoeka Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Huia Ridge Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Ian Wells Track	Partially open (from Piha Road to Dam)	Track proposed to remain partially open (from Piha Road to Dam) and partially closed (between Dam and Cutty Grass Track).
Incline Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Kakamatua Inlet Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Kakamatua Ridge Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Kauri Grove Track	Closed	Part of the track is proposed for future work programme (between Winstone Track and Connect Track). Part of the track is proposed to remain closed (between Winstone Track and Piha Road).
Kura Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
La Trobe Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Lower Kauri Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Lower Nihotupu Dam Road	Closed	Part of the track is proposed for future work programme (between Pipeline Road and Huia Road). Part of the track is proposed to remain closed (between Pipeline Road and Hamilton Track).
Manukau Bar View Walk	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Marguerite Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Maungaroa Ridge Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
McElwain Lookout Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
McKenzie Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Odiin Timber Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Old Coach Road Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed

Opanuku Pipeline Track	Closed	Part of the track is proposed for future work programme (from Mountain Road to the campground). Part of the track is proposed to remain closed (from the campground to Christian Road).
Peripatus Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Piha Valley Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Pipeline Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Pole Line Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Pukematekeo Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Quarry Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Rangemore Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
RGB Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Ridge Road Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Sharp Bush Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Simla Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Sisam Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Smyth Ridge Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Spragg Bush Walk	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Summit Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Swanson Pipeline Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Tarairā Track	Partially open (from road to waterfall)	Track to remain partially open (from road to waterfall) only. Part of track proposed to remain closed (from the Waterfall to La Trobe Track).
Tom Thumb By-Pass Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Tom Thumb Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Twin Peaks Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Upper Huia Dam Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Wainamu Bush Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Waitakere Tramline Walk	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Waitoru Reserve Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Walker Ridge Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
West Tunnel Mouth Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Winstone Track	Closed	Part of the track is proposed for future work programme (from Ussher Track to Kauri Grove Track). Part of track proposed to remain closed (from Kauri Grove Track to Home Track).
Zion Ridge Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed

The following tracks will remain permanently closed.

Track name	Current status - Jan 2019	Future track status
Bob Gordon Track	Permanently closed	Track will remain permanently closed
Lucy Cranwell Track	Permanently closed	Track will remain permanently closed
Nihotupu Ridge Track	Permanently closed	Track will remain permanently closed
Nugget Track	Permanently closed	Track will remain permanently closed
Robinson Ridge Track	Permanently closed	Track will remain permanently closed
Taumata Track	Permanently closed	Track will remain permanently closed
Walker Kauri Track	Permanently closed	Track will remain permanently closed



Have your say on the track plan for Waitākere Ranges Regional Park

In May 2018, Auckland Council closed the forested areas of the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park, with some exemptions where a Controlled Area Notice is in place. This significant decision was made to increase protection of our forests from kauri dieback disease. This decision followed a rāhui placed over Te Waonui ā Tiriwa (the forested area of the Waitākere Ranges) by Te Kawerau ā Maki in December 2017.

More information on the closure is available [here](#)

(<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/environment/plants-animals/pests-weeds/Pages/protect-our-kauri-trees.aspx>)

There is significant demand for recreational opportunity in the Waitākere Ranges and community expectation that further tracks will be reopened. Te Kawerau ā Maki and Auckland Council have been working together to develop a track plan which identifies priorities for track upgrades and re-opening over the next two-five years.

In making the decision to reopen tracks the following has and will continue to be taken into account:

- priority on recreating coastal connectivity, providing for multi-day walking opportunities and kauri-safe access to identified iconic destinations – this is in line with feedback received during public engagement undertaken ahead of the decision to close the forested area of the park
- tracks opened once they are of a standard where they protect and support forest health, in particular prevent the movement of soil to stop the spread of kauri dieback both within and out of the park,
- avoid high value non-symptomatic kauri ecosystems, and

provide a range of recreational opportunities that where possible are concentrated to the forest edge.

It is envisaged that further work will be required to manage changing visitor demands to the Waitākere Ranges, including rationalisation of the track network. This will be considered as part of the review of the Regional Parks Management Plan in 2020.

The 2019 work programme has been confirmed, with design and/or construction beginning in this period.

We are seeking community feedback on priorities for track upgrades and reopening beyond the current work programme. The current and proposed future work programmes are outlined in the accompanying map and list.

Following this community consultation we will consider the feedback received and finalise our track plan.

Ngā korero muna - Important privacy information

All personal information that you provide in this submission will be held and protected by Auckland Council in accordance with our privacy policy (available at [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/privacy](http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/privacy) (<http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/privacy>) and at our libraries and service centres) and with the Privacy Act 1993. Our privacy policy explains how we may use and share your personal information in relation to any interaction you have with the council, and how you can access and correct that information. We recommend you familiarise yourself with this policy.

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Your contact details

Your feedback (including your name) will be publicly available in Auckland Council reports and online, but your contact details will be kept private.

1A Full name

First name

Last name

1B Are you giving feedback on behalf of a club or organisation? *

Yes - I am the official spokesperson for the organisation

No - these are my own personal views

If your answer to question 1B.Club or Organisation is "Yes - I am the official spokesperson for the organisation" then answer this question

If your answer to question 1B.Club or Organisation is "Yes - I am the official spokesperson for the organisation" then this question is mandatory

1C Name of club or organisation

1D Email address

1E Postal address

Street address

Suburb

City

Postcode

1F Your Local Board:

Check here

<http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/en/aboutcouncil/representativesbodies/localboards/pages/findyourwardandlocalboard.asp>

- Albert-Eden
- Devonport-Takapuna
- Franklin
- Great Barrier
- Henderson-Massey
- Hibiscus and Bays
- Howick
- Kaipatiki
- Mangere-Otahuhu
- Manurewa
- Maungakiekie-Tamaki
- Orakei
- Otara-Papatoetoe
- Papakura
- Puketapapa
- Rodney
- Upper Harbour
- Waiheke
- Waitakere Ranges
- Waitemata
- Whau

Outside Auckland

Don't Know

If your answer to question 1F, Local Board is "Don't Know" and you didn't answer question 1E, Postal address, then answer this question

1G If you do not know which local board area you live in, please tell us the suburb you live in

Page 2

2A Which describes your interest in the Waitakere Ranges?

Please select all that apply

- I live in or near the ranges
- It is a place I like to visit for recreational purposes
- I am passionate about conservation of this area
- I am part of a business that operates in the area

If your answer to question 2A includes "I am part of a business that operates in the area" then answer this question

2B What is the impact of the proposed track strategy on your business? *

- No impact
- Positive impact once plan is complete
- Negative impact once plan is complete

Other

If your answer to question 2A includes "I am part of a business that operates in the area" then answer this question

2C Please further describe the impact on your business:

2D How often do you visit the Waitakere Ranges Regional Park?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- 3-4 times a year
- Less often
- Never

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Please take a look at the [map](https://engagemedia.azureedge.net/files/file/B19Sa2QL8U6i6QjWf13YRA) and [track list](https://engagemedia.azureedge.net/files/file/vwaeXJYe10OrUQjWf13m7Q) and think about the work programme before answering the next questions.

3A Does the proposed track plan provide a good balance of recreation experiences and forest health?

- Yes
- No

3B Tell us more about why you agree/disagree with the tracks shown in the plan:

3C Are there any specific tracks that are not currently in the future work programme that you think should be included?

- Yes
- No

If your answer to question 3C is "Yes" then answer this question

3D Please name specific tracks and explain reasons why you consider these should be included.

3E Of the tracks identified in the future work programme, are there any that you would particularly like to see prioritised?

3F Are there any specific tracks that are currently in the future work programme that you think should be removed?

3G Do you have any other feedback?

3H Click below to upload any supporting documents you would like to include with YOUR submission.

Please attach the required Documents

3I Do you want to be kept informed about this issue via email?

- Yes
- No

If your answer to question 3I is "Yes" and you didn't answer question 1D, Email then answer this question

3J Please enter your email address *

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We have a few optional questions which will help us understand a bit more about you. Please note, the following questions help us understand which groups of the community are engaging with council.

All questions are optional and, again, all personal information will remain private.

4A What gender do you identify as?

- Male
 Female
 Gender diverse
- 4B Which of the following best describes the age group you belong to?
- 14 years or under
 15-24 years
 25-34 years
 35-44 years
 45-54 years
 55-64 years
 65-74 years
 75 years or over
- 4C What ethnicity/ethnicities do you identify with?
- Pakeha/NZ European Māori
 Samoan Cook Islands Maori
 Tongan Chinese
 South East Asian Korean
 Indian

Other - please specify

4D Auckland Council newsletters - to subscribe to any council newsletters, please tick which newsletters you would like to receive. Tick all that apply:

- Waitakere Ranges greenways plan - updates on walking and cycling projects
 Have Your Say - all the updates on engagement activities at Auckland Council
 People's Panel - a quick and easy way for Aucklanders to have their say on council
 OurAuckland - your weekly guide to what's happening across the region

If you answered question 4D.Newsletters and you didn't answer question 1D.Email and you didn't answer question 3J then answer this question

4E Please provide your email address for us to send you sign up information.

Thank you for your feedback.

This consultation will close on 14 March 2019.

We are currently analysing all the feedback received. Council staff will prepare a report on submissions received. This will be used to consider changes to the draft Waitakere Ranges Regional Park Track Reopening Plan.

The feedback report and a copy of the decision will be made public on the council website once finalised.

Thank you for your interest in this important issue.



2019 - 2024

Track Reopening Work Programme

Waitākere Ranges Regional Park

June 2019

Find out more: visit
aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/protectkauri

2019 - 2024 Track Reopening Work Programme Waitākere Ranges Regional Park.

Background

In April 2018, the Environment and Community Committee resolved to close the forested areas of the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park, with some exceptions, to respond to the on-going spread and impacts of kauri dieback (ENV/2018/44). The Environment and Community Committee decision anticipated the re-opening of tracks once they were brought to kauri safe standards.

Track and park closures were implemented from 1 May 2018, at the same time as a Controlled Area Notice was placed over the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park by the Ministry for Primary Industries.

In February 2019, a public consultation process was carried out to seek feedback on a draft plan for re-opening tracks in the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park from 2019/2020 onwards.

The purpose of the consultation process was to seek feedback on how the public would like to see listed tracks prioritised for opening and whether there were any additional tracks which should be included or removed.

This plan sets out the forward work programme developed following the consultation process. It includes the list of tracks that will be prioritised for track re-opening between 2019 – 2024 and the indicative timing of upgrades. A focus for the delivery of this plan will be to complete work as soon as possible, taking into account strong feedback from the public consultation process regarding the need for more recreational access. Where possible work on some tracks will be brought forward if others are completed earlier than planned. Timeframes are indicative for this reason and also because with any operational programme, there can be unforeseen factors that can influence delivery.

In making decisions to reopen tracks the following principles are being applied:

- Priority on recreating coastal connectivity, providing for multi-day walking opportunities and kauri-safe access to identified iconic destinations
- High-value, non-symptomatic kauri ecosystems will be avoided
- Tracks that provide a range of recreational opportunities and where possible are concentrated to the forest edge should be prioritised
- Tracks will be opened once they are of a standard to protect and support forest health

The above criteria were considered in conjunction with:

- Avoiding heavily diseased areas
- Public feedback received during recent consultation on the track reopening plan
- Input from Te Kawerau ā Maki
- Workshop discussions with the Waitākere Ranges Local Board
- Operational considerations
 - Resource consent and planning requirements – some tracks will have greater requirements than others
 - Current contractor / staff capacity
 - Organising work in an operationally efficient manner whilst also ensuring a geographic spread of work, recognising the local importance of many tracks

Heritage values

Many tracks in the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park have historical value. While only a small number of submitters expressed concern about losing history as a result of track closures, consideration has been given as to how we ensure heritage information and values are protected for both open and closed tracks. This will include:

- Keeping a record of location of all closed tracks and ensuring the full length of these have been mapped
- Preserving historical sites in accordance with Heritage New Zealand best practice
- Identifying opportunities to share heritage information through interpretative signs and other mediums.

2019-2024 Track Reopening Work Programme

Tracks listed below are included in the 2019-2024 work programme (Tables 1 and 2) and will be reopened once they are to required kauri safe standards.

Definitions for rationale in tables below:

- **Public feedback** – indicates tracks submitters said they would like to see included or prioritised in the work programme. See Appendix 1 and 2.
- **Coastal/forest edge** – indicates coastal tracks or tracks that are on the edge of the forest
- **Loops/links** – indicates tracks that create loop walks or provide links to other tracks or areas
- **Tikanga/rāhui** – indicates tracks that Te Kawerau ā Maki support opening
- **Iconic site or destination** – indicates tracks that provide access to an iconic site or destination
- **Avoids high value non-symptomatic kauri ecosystems** – indicates tracks that do not enter disease free kauri forest
- **Service road** – indicates tracks that are operational service roads

Table 1: 2019-2024 work programme.
The table below shows the list of 35 tracks that were planned to be re-opened in the draft work programme and are still included for reopening.

Track name	Current status	Was a change made from consultation proposal?	Rationale							Consent/build start year. * indicates multiyear	Further information
			Public feedback	Coastal/forest edge	Loops/links	Tikanga/rāhui	Iconic site or destination	Avoids high value non-symptomatic kauri ecosystems	Service road		
Ahu Ahu Track	Closed	Yes (moved from being included in the current work programme to 19/20)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	19/20	Works have been delayed due to the discovery of telephone cables sitting close to and on the surface of the track. Auckland Council is currently working through options to resolve.
Auckland City Walk	Closed	No	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	19/20	Design work is underway.
Buck Taylor Track	Closed	No	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	21/22	Partial opening only is proposed between Pararaha Track and Zion Hill Track. The remainder of the track between Zion Hill and Lone Kauri Rd will not be included. Works may be brought forward depending on resource and building consent requirements.
Con Bryan Track	Closed	No		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	21/22	Will form part of the Hillary Trail and creates coastal connectivity when a link between Kaitarakihi and Con Bryan is created.
Donald McLean Track	Closed	No	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	20/21	Forms part of the Hillary Trail and key connection between Huia and Whatipu.

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Fairy Falls Track	Closed	No	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	20/21*	Design work is already underway for this track. The track is in a separate catchment and below an area of high value non-symptomatic kauri. With quality infrastructure the risk of human vectoring is considered low.
Fence Line Track	Closed	No	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	21/22	Upgrade work is required to facilitate the reopening of Montana Heritage Trail, a popular loop in the Cascade/Kauri area.
Fletcher Track	Closed	No	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	23/24*	Popular link to create a longer loop option from key entry point at Karamatura valley.
Gibbons Track	Closed	No	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	20/21	Forms part of the Hillary Trail and creates coastal connectivity. Enables a longer loop walk from Whatipu.
Houghton Track	Closed	No	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	23/24*	Forms part of the Hillary Trail. Current alignment may change.
Jubilee Walk	Closed	No	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	19/20	Popular short walk for visitors to Cornwallis Beach.
Karamatura Loop Walk	Closed	No	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	19/20	Popular loop walk.
Karamatura Track	Closed	No	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	20/21	Forms part of the Hillary Trail and key connection between Huia and Whatipu.
Kuataika Track	Closed	No	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	23/24*	Forms part of the Hillary Trail. Current alignment may change.
Long Road Track	Partially Open	No	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	22/23	Upgrade work is required between where the track is currently closed at the forest edge to where it meets Fenceline Track. Forms part of the Montana Heritage Trail, a popular loop in the Cascade/Kauri area it also provides a link to Pae O Te Rangī farm.
Lower Nihotupu Dam Road	Closed	No	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	21/22	A Watercare service road, public access will be granted pending future infrastructure development.

Maungaroa Lookout Track	Closed	No	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	22/23	Provides a link to create loop walks and coastal connections in the Piha area.
Mt Donald McLean Walk	Closed	No	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	18/19	Work is underway, and the track will open in 2019.
Muir Track	Closed	No	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	20/21	Forms part of the Hillary Trail and creates coastal connectivity. Enables a longer loop walk from Whatipu.
Omanawanui Track	Closed	No	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	19/20	Forms part of the Hillary Trail and key connection between Huia and Whatipu.
Opanuku Pipeline Track	Closed	No	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	19/20	Watercare Service Road. Partial opening only is proposed between Mountain Road and the bridge.
Panto Track	Closed	No	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	21/22*	Will form part of the Hillary Trail. Realignment of the last section is planned to connect with the Kakamatua Beach Walk.
Pararaha Valley Track	Closed	Yes (moved from being included in the current programme to 19/20)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	19/20	Resource consent application has been submitted and work will begin once approved.
Parau Track	Closed	No	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	21/22*	Will form part of the Hillary Trail. Partial opening only proposed between Lower Nihotupu Dam Road and the Panto Track junction.
Puriri Ridge Track	Closed	No	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	20/21	Forms part of the Hillary Trail and key connection between Huia and Whatipu.
Signal House Track	Closed	No	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	19/20	Short coastal track off Omanawanui Track which leads to a viewpoint.
Slip Track	Closed	No	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	18/19	Work is underway, and the track will open in 2019.

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Taitomo Track	New track	Yes (moved from being included in the current work programme to 19/20)								19/20	Design work is underway for this new track which will connect Log Race Road with South Piha and form part of the Hillary Trail.
Upper Kauri Track	Closed	No	✓							21/22	Upgrade work is required to facilitate the reopening of Montana Heritage Trail, a popular loop in the Cascade/Kauri area.
Ussher Track	Closed	No								19/20	Provides an alternate entry/exit for the Piha Road end of Winstone Track to avoid an area of kauri forest.
Whatitiri Track	Closed	No								19/20	Forms a link between Long Road and Falls Rd via Pae O Te Rangī farm.
White Track	Closed	No	✓							19/20	Provides a link to create loop walks at North Piha.
Winstone Track	Closed	No	✓							19/20	Provides a link to create loop walks by connecting Kitekite Track to coastal tracks via a short section of Piha, Te Ahuahu and Log Race Roads.
Zion Hill Track	Closed	No	✓							21/22*	The track links with the lower end of Buck Taylor and the beach to create a loop from Karekare.

Table 2: Tracks that have been added to the 2019 – 2024 work programme.

The table below shows 8 tracks have been added to the work programme due to public feedback or they are proposed new tracks which will provide additional walking opportunities.

Track name	Current status	Was a change made from consultation proposal?	Rationale								Further information
			Public feedback	Coastal/forest edge	Loops/links	Tikanga/rāhui	Iconic site or destination	Avoids high value non-symptomatic kauri ecosystems	Service road	Consent/build start year. * indicates multiyear	
Anawhata Farm Loop	Open	Yes (proposed new track)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	19/20	The Anawhata farm is currently open however a defined walking route around the farm will be marked.
Cornwallis access track (from Cornwallis Wharf Road to Beach)	Closed	Yes (was not included in consultation)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	19/20	Residents would like to see this beach access track reopen. It was not included in the consultation as it is not marked on Recreation Track Map as an 'official track'.
Cutty Grass Track	Closed	Yes (moved from not included to 20/21)	✓		✓	✓			✓	20/21	Identified as important through consultation process to residents given limited walking opportunities in their local area. A service road used for lines maintenance. Upgrades are required to make sure that maintenance activity is kauri safe which will also allow pedestrian access. Provides walking opportunities for Anawhata residents.
Fisherman's Rock Track	Proposed new track	Yes (proposed new track)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	23/24*	A new track north from Whites Beach along the cliff top to Anawhata. This will open multiple coastal loop options outside of kauri areas.

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Link from Kaitarakihi Beach to Con Bryan Track	Proposed new link	Yes (proposed new track)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	22/23	Low tide connection along the coast (not a formed track). Will become part of the Hillary Trail, eliminating road walking and creating coastal connections.
Link from Kakamatua Beach to Spragg Monument	Proposed new track	Yes (proposed new track)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	22/23*	Short track from Kakamatua inlet to Spragg Monument. Will become part of the Hillary Trail, eliminating road walking and creating coastal connections.
McElwain Lookout Track	Closed	Yes (moved from not included to 19/20)	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	19/20	Upgrade work is required to allow access to an iconic viewpoint. Partial opening only is proposed on the section with no kauri.
Spragg Bush Walk	Closed	Yes (moved from not included to 19/20)	✓	✓					19/20	Identified as important through consultation process to residents given limited walking opportunities in their local area. Gives access to historic Waitākere Cemetery. Potential opportunity to link to Fairy Falls will be investigated.

Options to be investigated

Through the public consultation process, a number of submitters sought the inclusion of additional tracks. Auckland Council, in partnership with Te Kawerau ā Maki, will investigate the option of re-routing or opening low risk sections of the following 7 tracks for future inclusion in the work programme (Table 3).

Table 3: Tracks to be investigated for future inclusion

Track name	Current status	Was a change made from what was proposed in the consultation?	Rationale							Further information
			Public feedback	Coastal/forest edge	Loops/links	Tikanga/rāhui	Iconic sites or destination	Avoids high value non-symptomatic kauri ecosystems	Is a service road	
Cave Rock Track	Closed	Yes (moved from closed to investigate)	✓			✓	✓		✓	This area is of cultural significance to Te Kawerau ā Maki. The track requires significant resurfacing.
Kura Track	Closed	Yes (moved from closed to investigate)	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	Current alignment is not supported from a tikanga and rāhui perspective. Options will be investigated into the feasibility of creating a replacement loop incorporating sections of Omanawanui Track.
Old Coach Road Track	Closed	Yes (moved from closed to investigate)	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	Partial opening only is proposed as a link between Spraggs Bush and Fairy Falls. The remainder would remain closed as the track crosses above an identified significant area of non-symptomatic kauri ecology.
Piha Valley Track	Closed	Yes (moved from closed to investigate)	✓			✓	✓		✓	Partial opening may be possible as far as the McKenzie Track junction. Beyond this point there are extensive areas of kauri ecology.
Smyth Ridge Track	Closed	Yes (moved from closed to investigate)	✓			✓	✓		✓	Auckland Council is investigating options for section 6 of the Hillary Trail which may alter the alignment of Smythe Ridge Track.

Tramline (from Slip Track to Jacobson's Depot)	Proposed new track	Yes (proposed new track for investigation)				✓	✓	✓	✓	Auckland Council is working with Watercare to investigate options to allow public access along the tramline offering additional loop options from Arataki.
Waitākere Tramline Walk	Closed	Yes (moved from closed to investigate)	✓				✓			Partial opening may be possible as far the tunnel. Beyond this point there are areas of high value non-symptomatic kauri.

Tracks not included in the 2019-2024 work programme.

The following table shows 10 tracks that submitters said they would like to see included in the future work programme but have not been included for reasons listed below. Most of these tracks have not been considered for re-opening because they run through areas of high value kauri and staff consider that re-opening them at this time would create a high risk of disease spread. No decisions have been made on whether tracks not in the upcoming work programme will be permanently closed. This will be considered as part of the Regional Parks Management Plan review in 2020 (Table 4).

Table 4: Tracks not included in the 2019-2024 work programme

Track name	Current status	Was a change made from what was proposed in the consultation?	Rationale							Further information
			Public feedback	Coastal/forest edge	Loops/links	Tikanga/rahui	Iconic sites or destination	Avoids high value non-symptomatic kauri ecosystems	Is a service road	
Cascade Track	Closed	No	✓		✓					Similar recreation opportunities will be provided in the Cascade area. This track crosses a gully containing high value non-symptomatic kauri.
Centennial Track	Closed	No	✓		✓					Passes through stands of mature kauri and a large volume of rickers.
Farley Track	Closed	No	✓		✓					This track was closed in 2012 to prevent spreading disease from symptomatic areas at the start of the track to non-symptomatic areas further along the track.

Hamilton Track	Closed	No	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Hamilton Track passes directly through areas of high value non-symptomatic kauri. An alternative route for the Hillary Trail between Arataki and Huia will be provided via Lower Nihotupu Dam Road, Parau and Panto Tracks.
Home Track	Closed	No	✓						Home Track contains high numbers of symptomatic kauri. For this to form a loop other tracks in the Piha Valley area would need to open.
Huia Ridge Track	Closed	No	✓					✓	Huia Ridge Track passes above a catchment which contains high value non-symptomatic kauri.
Odlin Timber Track	Closed	No	✓						Public feedback largely supported this track reopening to give access to off track activities in the streams. Off track activity is actively discouraged in the Regional Parks Management Plan, 2010.
Ridge Road Track	Closed	No	✓					✓	This track is in the forest interior. Reopening is not supported from a rāhui/tikanga perspective.
Walker Ridge Track	Closed	No	✓					✓	This track is in the forest interior. Reopening is not supported from a rāhui/tikanga perspective.
Zion Ridge Track	Closed	No	✓						Has high numbers of symptomatic trees. For this to form a loop other tracks would need to open.

The following tracks are not included in the 2019-2024 work programme:

The following currently closed tracks were either not mentioned by submitters or were mentioned by fewer than 15 submitters, as ones they would like included in the future work programme. These tracks are not included in the 2019-2024 work programme, however no decisions have been made on whether these tracks will be permanently closed. This will be considered as part of the Regional Parks Management Plan review in 2020.

- Anderson Track
- Arthur Mead Track
- Browne Track
- Chateau Mosquito Track
- Christies Track
- Clark Bush Track
- Cowan Track
- Crusher Pipe Track
- Destruction Gully Track
- Dreamlands Track
- East Tunnel Mouth Track
- Ferndown Track
- Filter Track
- Forbes Track
- Goat Hill Track
- Goodfellow Track
- Hettig Track
- Horoeka Track
- Incline Track
- Kakamatua Inlet Track
- Kakamatua Ridge Track
- Kauri Grove Track
- Lower Kauri Track
- Manukau Bar View Walk
- Marguerite Track
- Maungaroa Ridge Track
- McKenzie Track
- Peripatus Track
- Pipeline Track
- Pole Line Track
- Pukematekeo Track
- Quarry Track
- Rangemore Track
- RGB Track
- Sharp Bush Track
- Simla Track
- Sisam Track
- Summit Track (between Nihotupu Ridge Track and Christies Track)
- Swanson Pipeline Track
- Tom Thumb By-Pass Track
- Tom Thumb Track
- Twin Peaks Track
- Upper Huia Dam Track
- Wainamu Bush Track
- Waitoru Reserve Track
- West Tunnel Mouth Track

The following tracks will remain open/partially open:

- Anawhata Beach Track
- Arataki Nature Trail (Upper Loop and most of Lower Loop)
- Beveridge Track
- Byers Walk
- Comans Track
- Connect Track (from Kitekite Track to top of falls)
- Exhibition Drive
- Huia Dam Road (Watercare)
- Ian Wells Track (from Piha Road to Dam)
- Kakamatua Beach Walk
- Kitekite Track
- Knutzen Track
- Laird Thomson Track
- Lake Wainamu Track
- Large Kauri Walk
- Lion Rock Track
- Long Road Track (from road end to where paddock meets the forest)
- Lookout Track Arataki Visitor Centre
- Manukau Timber Company Heritage Trail
- Marawhara Walk
- Mercer Bay Loop Walk
- Monument Track (Mc Lachlan)
- Orpheus Graves Walk
- Pae O Te Rangī Farm Tracks
- Parker Track
- Pipeline Road
- Pohutukawa Glade Walk
- Rose Track
- Spragg Monument Track
- Taraire Track (from road to waterfall)
- Tasman Lookout Track
- Te Henga Walkway (DOC)
- Upper Nihotupu Dam Road (Watercare) and Upper Nihotupu Walk
- Waitākere Dam Walk
- Whatipu Caves Track
- Zig Zag Track

The following tracks have been permanently closed:

These tracks were closed by resolution of Auckland Council's Environment and Community Committee, December 2017 (ENV/2017/183)

- Bob Gordon Track
- La Trobe Track
- Lucy Cranwell Track
- Nihotupu Ridge Track
- Nugget Track
- Robinson Ridge Track
- Summit Track (between Nihotupu Ridge Track and Hamilton Track)
- Taumata Track
- Walker Kauri Track

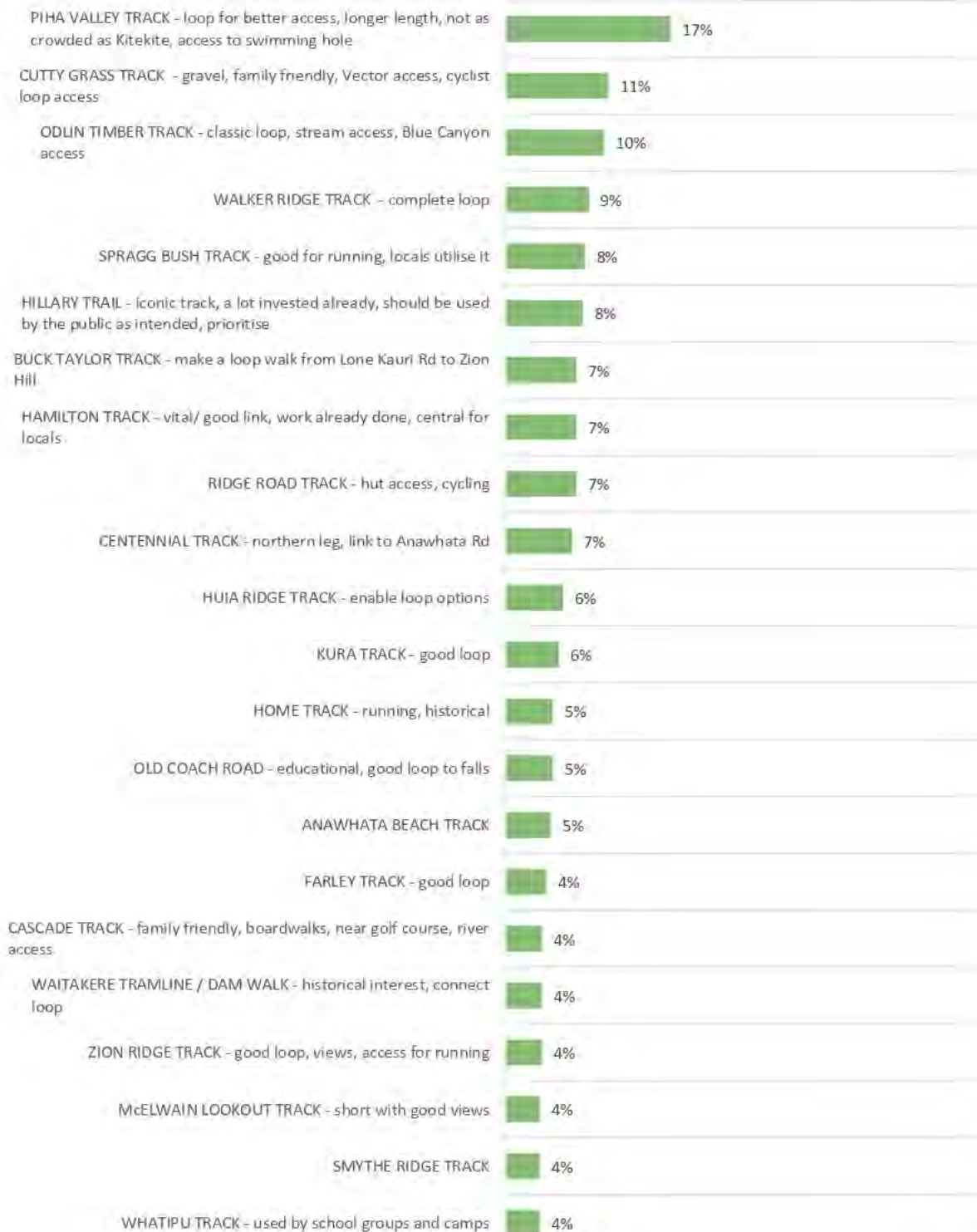
Appendix 1

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Attachment N

Tracks submitters would like to see included in the future work programme

Base: n=422 (yes, I think a track should be included) PLUS 28 email/letter submissions.

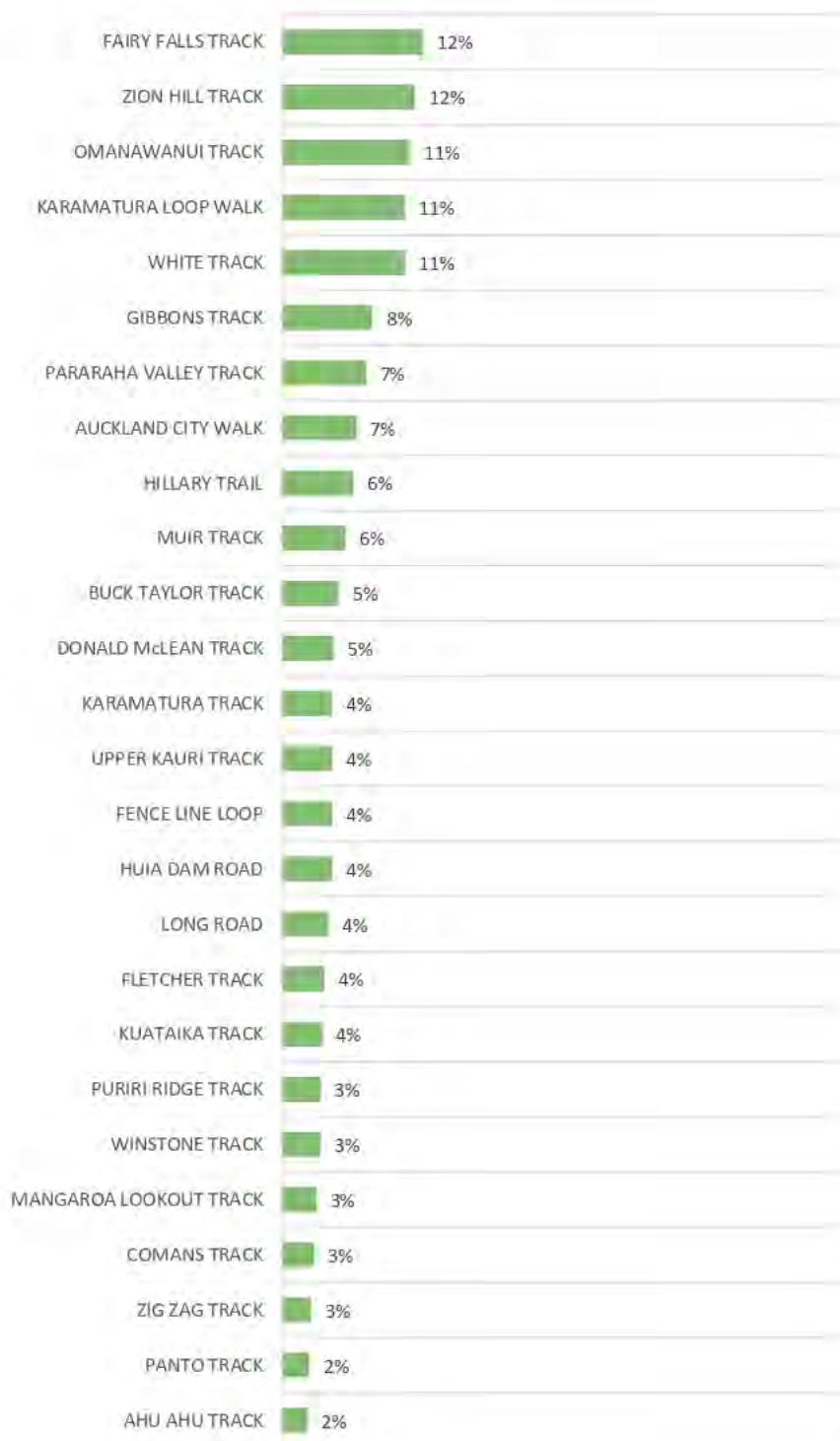


Appendix 2

Tracks to be prioritised

Tracks in the future work programme submitters would like to see prioritised

Base: n=681 PLUS 20 email/letter submissions.



Appendix C. Local parks track upgrade prioritisation process

Figure 1 below shows the process that is being used to prioritise and undertake kauri dieback management works in local parks.



Figure 1. Process to prioritise and undertake kauri dieback management works in local parks

In line with the steps outlined above, local parks have been categorised based on level of kauri ecosystem value and recreational value as shown in Figure 2 below.

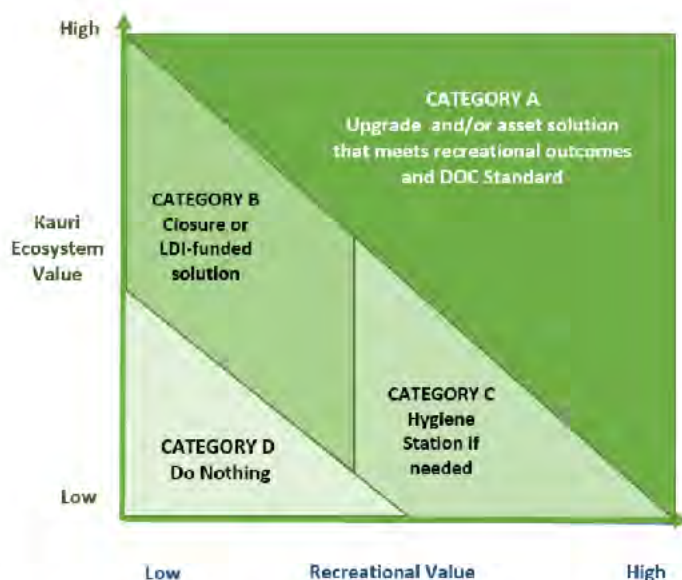


Figure 2. Categorisation of parks by kauri ecosystem and recreational value

Results of this categorisation of local parks are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Categorisation of local parks by ecosystem and recreational value

Categorisation	Number of local parks	High-level recommendation
CATEGORY A Parks with high or medium kauri ecosystem value AND high or medium recreational value.	54	Prioritise for natural environment targeted rate funding for track/track network upgrade or asset solution. Temporary closure may be required until works can be implemented.
CATEGORY B Parks with high or medium kauri ecosystem value BUT low recreational value.	43	Indefinite track closures would be appropriate. Track upgrades are unlikely to be funded by the natural environment targeted rate.
CATEGORY C Parks with low kauri ecosystem value BUT high recreational value.	91	Some protection may be needed, which could be provided in the form of hygiene stations. Some track upgrades may be needed.
CATEGORY D Parks with low kauri ecosystem value AND low recreational value.	189	No action is recommended.