

05 May 2020

Official Information Request No. 8140006023
(Please quote this in any correspondence)

Tom Austen

By email -: fyi-request-11741-59e953c4@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Tom

Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA)

Track Upgrade

We write further to your request for official information about the track upgrade budget for regional parks, our response dated 24 December 2019, and your complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman about the council's decision on your request (their ref 521189)..

In the course of the Ombudsman's Office investigation, staff have carried out additional work and have determined we can provide you with further information on the estimated costs for track upgrade works for each of the regional park sectors (North, South West). This has taken into account completed work to date for which actual costs are available and high-level estimates for work still in progress, including design and consent related costs. They also provided some examples of actual costs for completed track upgrades, plus further explanation of why this information cannot necessarily be extrapolated from one location to another. Please see below.

Estimated costs per sector to upgrade tracks (Total budget for 19/20 Regional Park track work \$6,513,000 (capital expenditure)):

Western Sector (Waitākere Ranges Regional Park) 24.6 km of track at \$4,573,000.

Southern Sector (Hunua, including Waharau and Awhitu Regional Parks) 15.2 km of track at \$1,625,000.

Northern Sector (Wenderholm, Shakespear, Tawharanui and Glenfern Regional Parks) 3.2 km of track at \$315,000.

Examples of actual costs for some completed tracks:

White Track 2.2km	Actual \$248,765
Jubilee Track 1.8km	Actual \$183,372
Donald McLean Track 2.2km	Actual \$291,379
Wairoa Southern Loop 3.2km	Actual \$300,789

Explanation:

Each track is unique, so upgrade costs are not established until the detailed design and procurement for goods and services complete.

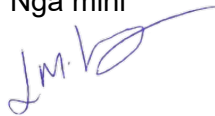
There are a range of variables, such as the number and health of kauri nearby, topography, level of use by the public - which determines the width of track required based on NZ Standards, the mitigation options selected (boardwalk versus geocell or box stairs) and the relevant controlled area notice requirements such as hygiene station installation that must be factored in when estimating costs for park track upgrades.

We also need to consider other factors such as whether the works are in a flood plain, are there other significant trees nearby or archaeological sites needing protection. Some tracks may also need building consents, or may be in remote locations with difficult access, requiring helicopters to deliver materials to the site. The delivery method for upgrades also varies – once detailed design has been complete, decisions are made on delivery method utilising either by contractors, staff or a combination of both.

All of these factors mean it is not possible to extrapolate the estimated costs for track upgrade work per kilometre from one site and apply this information across a whole sector of tracks.

If you have any questions please contact me at joanne.kearney@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz or Ph 09 977 1702.

Ngā mihi



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