

6 April 2021

Maria Ferguson
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Tēnā koe Maria,

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, received on 05 March 2021 in which you asked for:

In respect of the Scenic Reserve along the Whangamata stream that enters Lake Taupo at Kinloch, please provide all correspondence and communications including emails and notes from oral discussions with any individual or organization;

- 1) about the use of the scenic reserve by cyclists,*
- 2) about building cycle tracks and jumps and runs,*
- 3) about damage to the environment caused by such use or building,*
- 4) about the desire or need to disestablish or remove or otherwise take away such tracks and jumps and runs.*

Please provide all documentation and correspondence and records of communication in respect of any consultation undertaken about the use by cyclists of the Whangamata stream scenic reserve (the Reserve).

Please provide any documents recording or analyzing or measuring the damage done to the environment of the Reserve by the BMX track activities amongst the Douglas fir trees in the Reserve.

Provide any documents requiring or requesting or otherwise directing the disestablishment of the BMX jumps and runs amongst the Douglas fir trees in the Reserve and recording any decision made about disestablishing such jumps and runs and recording the reasons for any such direction or decision.

Nationally, bikes are classified as vehicles, and Conservation General Policy states reserves and tracks can only legally be used for biking where they are specifically identified in the Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) for each region.

The Tongariro Taupo CMS is very limited with permitted biking opportunities and the Whangamata Stream Scenic Reserve is currently not included within its tracking schedule.

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	October 2020 – March 2021	Various emails discussing biking in Whangamata Stream Scenic Reserve	Released in part

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed above, subject to information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Official Information Act, as applicable:

- personal contact details of officials, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act.

If you wish to discuss this with the Department, please contact Dave Lumley, Operations Manager by email dlumley@doc.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Damian Coutts
Director Operations Central North Island
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai