

14 May 2019

LGOIMA No. 8140004449
(Please quote this in any correspondence)

Tom Austen

Sent by email: fyi-request-9998-5f24861e@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Tom

Local Government Official Information And Meetings Act 1987
Decision making on reopening tracks, Waitākere Ranges Regional Park

I refer to your email received on 15 April 2019, requesting information on the reopening of tracks in the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park.

The specific details of your request and our response is below:

1. Who is making the decisions about which Waitākere Ranges Regional Park tracks are to be reopened and when?

A detailed five-year track upgrade programme is currently being developed by the council's Regional Parks team. In developing the work programme, consideration is being given to a range of factors, including:

- public feedback received during recent track reopening consultation
- feedback from Te Kawerau ā Maki and the Waitākere Ranges Local Board
- resource consent and planning requirements – some tracks will have greater requirements than others
- current contractor / staff capacity
- organising work in an operationally efficient manner.

2. What criteria are being used, why and on what authority?

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

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

The response to question 1 outlines the considerations that will be additionally taken into account in the development of the five-year work programme.

The decision to close the forested area of the Waitākere Ranges, as previously advised to you in response to an earlier LGOIMA request, was made by council's Environment and Community Committee. This committee is the governance entity for decisions on regional parks matters.

The resolution to close the forest also anticipated that tracks would be re-opened once they meet required standards,

If you feel that we have not responded adequately to your request, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you have any further questions, please contact me on (09) 301 0101 quoting LGOIMA No. 8140004449

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J.M. Kearney', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joanne Kearney
Privacy & LGOIMA Business Partner
Democracy Services

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