

17 February 2022

Richard Murcott

fyi-request-18042-e6a97c56@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Richard

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT Request: 2021-127

Thank you for your email of 23 December 2021 to the Carterton District Council requesting the following information:

"...In your capacity as local roads controlling authority.

- 1. Previously, the public has enjoyed unfettered access to a 9km length of Rocky Hill Rd by light vehicle. The road passes through a unique landscape and ends near Taipo Minor (feature) where there is a nice block of the conservation estate (the Rocky Hills Sanctuary Area).*
- 2. NZ Walking Access Commission mapping refers:
<https://maps.walkingaccess.govt.nz/Viewer/?map=f6f2c671cbf9480da47739865ee9ffc&extent=1830418.8646%2C5433242.3547%2C1838444.7525%2C5437150.1977%2C2193>*
- 3. The alignment between the trafficable path (roadway/track) and the legal road is good throughout the 9km (compared to the alignments of many remote rural roads in other parts of NZ).*
- 4. Currently, passage along this legal road, beyond the 6km mark, is obstructed by a locked gate which prevents light vehicles from passing along the remaining 3km of Rocky Hill Rd (that's a 6km return to the gate)*
- 5. It would be appreciated if any locks on the gate obstructing light vehicle passage along the legal road are removed by 1 February 2022.*
- 6. If for any reason this cannot be undertaken or confirmed, then please share all information held by the authority (CDC) relating to this obstruction on Rocky Hill Rd (legal road)."*

Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meeting Act 1987 (the Act).

My response to your request is provided below.

- 1. Previously, the public has enjoyed unfettered access to a 9km length of Rocky Hill Rd by light vehicle. The road passes through a unique landscape and ends near Taipo Minor (feature) where there is a nice block of the conservation estate (the Rocky Hills Sanctuary Area).**

Where the walking starts is on private property, and the locked gate is not always locked, attached as **Appendix 1**.

- 2. NZ Walking Access Commission mapping refers:**
<https://maps.walkingaccess.govt.nz/Viewer/?map=f6f2c671cbf9480da47739865ee9ffc&extent=1830418.8646%2C5433242.3547%2C1838444.7525%2C5437150.1977%2C2193>

The “legal road” as per Geographic Information System (GIS) referred to does not completely align the track.

- 3. The alignment between the trafficable path (roadway/track) and the legal road is good throughout the 9km (compared to the alignments of many remote rural roads in other parts of NZ).**

The “legal road” is an unformed paper road that is not maintained by CDC, and therefore not suitable for vehicle access in places.

- 4. Currently, passage along this legal road, beyond the 6km mark, is obstructed by a locked gate which prevents light vehicles from passing along the remaining 3km of Rocky Hill Rd (that's a 6km return to the gate)**

To use a vehicle on the visible road, would mean that they are making use of private land.

- 5. It would be appreciated if any locks on the gate obstructing light vehicle passage along the legal road are removed by 1 February 2022.**

From discussion with one of the property owners, there is an agreement between the Department of Conservation (DOC) and the relevant property owners to allow walking access through private land.

- 6. If for any reason this cannot be undertaken or confirmed, then please share all information held by the authority (CDC) relating to this obstruction on Rocky Hill Rd (legal road)."**

The walking track agreement seems to have been in place for a long time on the various signs, attached as **Appendix B**.

Please note, the Council now proactively publishes LGOIMA responses on our website. As such, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

Thank you again for your email. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely

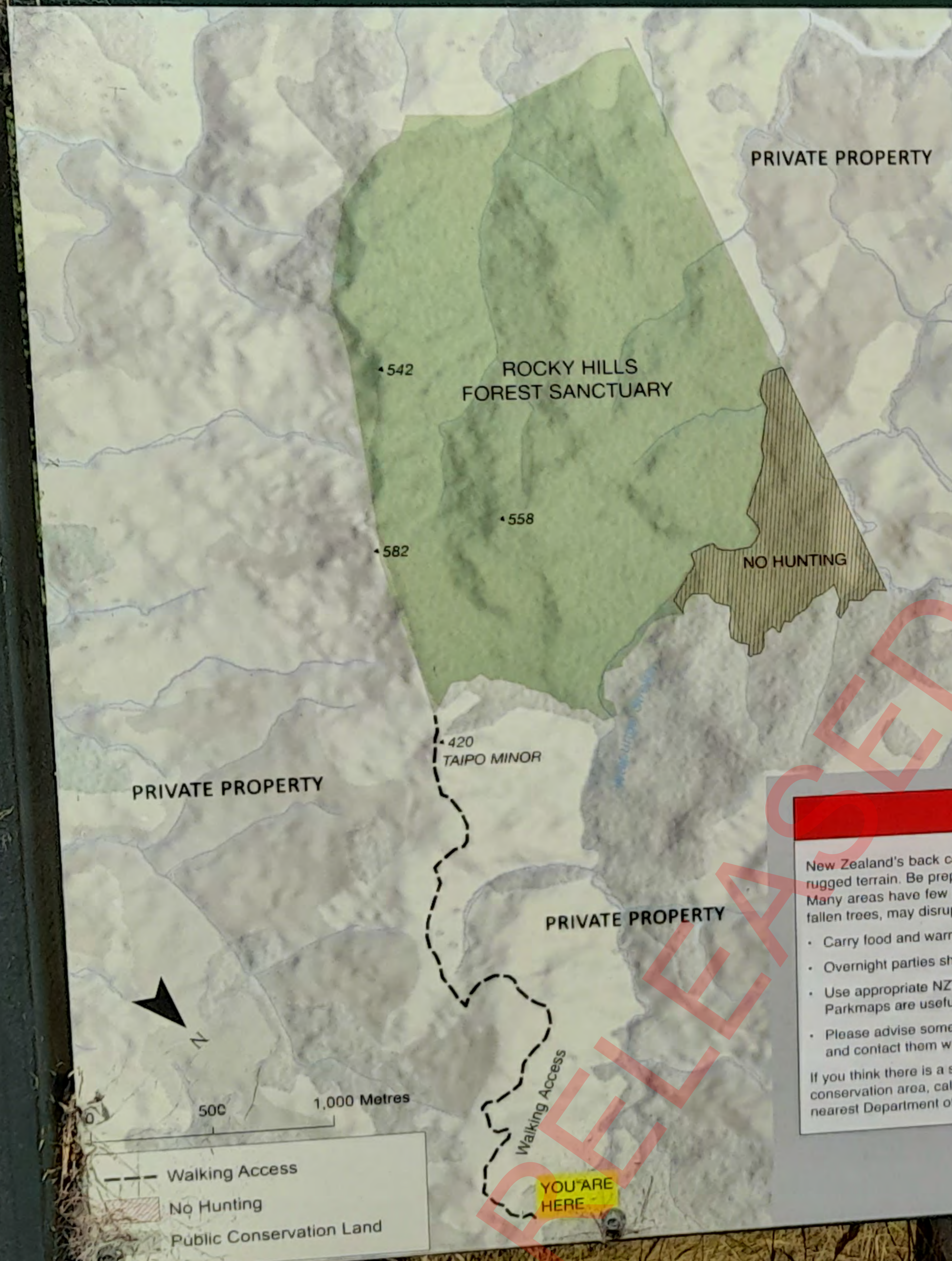
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Geoff Hamilton".

Geoff Hamilton
Chief Executive
Carterton District Council

RELEASED UNDER LGOIMA

Appendix A.





• Before entering the forest hunters must phone Ben Priestley on 077654355



- Hunting is **NOT** permitted on private land
- Hunting permits for the Forest Sanctuary must be carried
- Permits obtained from Department of Conservation, Masterton Office, 06 377 0700
- Restricted to 2 hunters per month



- This access is over private property. Dogs are not permitted
- Please leave gates as you find them



- Walking access only to Rocky Hills Forest Sanctuary (1 hour)
- Follow the markers toward Taipo Minor
- Access is closed during lambing season, from August to November inclusive

SAFETY

New Zealand's back country is renowned for its changeable weather and rugged terrain. Be prepared for adverse conditions. Many areas have few or basic facilities. Natural hazards, such as slips or fallen trees, may disrupt the use of facilities at any time.

- Carry food and warm waterproof clothing, even on short walks.
- Overnight parties should always include experienced trampers.
- Use appropriate NZTopo50 topographical maps for navigation. Parkmaps are useful for planning trips.
- Please advise someone of your planned route and expected time back, and contact them when you return.

If you think there is a safety hazard in a conservation area, call DOCHOTline or the nearest Department of Conservation office.

DOC HOTline
0800 362 468
Report any safety hazards or conservation emergencies
For the land search and rescue call 111



- NEW ZEALAND environmental CARE CODE
- Protect plants and animals.
 - Remove rubbish.
 - Keep streams and lakes clean.
 - Camp carefully.
 - Keep to the track.
 - Consider others.
 - Respect our cultural heritage.
 - Toitu te whenua (Leave the land undisturbed).



If you require further information, please contact the
DOC Wellington Visitor Centre,
18-32 Manners St,
P.O. Box 10-420,
Wellington 6143.
Ph: 04-384 7770
E-mail: wellingtonvc@doc.govt.nz
or visit our website www.doc.govt.nz

Please direct other enquiries to the Department of Conservation:

Masterton Office,
220 South Road
P.O. Box 191
MASTERTON 5810
Ph: 06-377 0700