



15-E-33 / LCO-01

27 February 2015

Liam Stoneley

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www.fyi.org.nz

Dear Liam

OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST

I refer to your official information request of 1 February 2015 for the following:

1. The annual cost to upkeep the QC Track, if this has gone up over the past 5 years, and by how much;
2. The major contributors to that cost;
3. If a helicopter is ever used as part of maintaining the track, if so, in the past 5 years how many times, for what purpose and why any other mode of transport could not have been used;
4. Of the \$18 ticket cost to use a portion of the track, how much is kept by DOC and how much is distributed to land owners and how many land owners get a share of the \$18, and;
5. How often are DOC or other contractors monitoring track passes being shown/bought on the track?

Please find enclosed the information which you requested.

1. a) The annual budgeted cost to upkeep the QC Track for this financial year (1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015) is \$53,894. This includes maintenance of the existing track and structures such as bridges. This cost has not gone up over the past 5 years. Maintenance work includes mowing, clearing vegetation and repairs to structures.
b) Major upgrade work has been carried out on the QC Track over the last 5 years, including re-routing the track in some locations, replacing bridges with culverts and improving drainage and the track surface. This work is budgeted to cost \$50,000 this financial year. This cost has not increased in the past 5 years.
2. The major contributor to the costs in 1(a) and (b) is staff salaries (up to 80%). The balance is the maintenance and purchase or hire of field equipment and supplies.
3. A helicopter has been used twice in the last 5 years as part of major upgrade work on the track. On 31 May 2010 one was used to fly 30 tons of gravel for track resurfacing at Camp Bay. In September 2010 a helicopter was used to fly bridge beams for a 12 metre steel beam bridge. Both of these jobs would have been almost impossible to do safely and efficiently without a helicopter due to the size and weight of the loads carried.
4. The Queen Charlotte Track Landowners Cooperative (QCTL) land use pass is collected by the QCTL directly. DOC invoices the QCTL annually for the

cost of maintaining the sections of track on private land. The most recent annual invoice for the 13/14 financial year was for \$7285.35. For information about how many landowners receive a portion of the land use pass you will need to contact the QCTLC. Their website is www.qctlc.com.

5. The land use pass was put in place and is required by the QCTLC not DOC and is for the sections of the QC Track that cross private land. Responsibility for administering and monitoring the land use pass sits with the QCTLC. For information on how the QCTLC monitors the land use pass you will need to contact them directly.

Yours sincerely,



Roy Grose
Acting Conservation Services Director
North and Western South Island