



Minutes

Coromandel Great Walks

Public Meeting

Date: 10:30am: 29 November 2014

Venue: Hahei Community Centre, 52 Hahei Beach Road

1 - Welcome, introduction and staff introductions by Chair - Sheree Webster

2 - Garry Towler and John Gaukrodger provided an overview of the project.

- Private property interests - Main reason for little communications over the last year
- Coromandel Great Walks needs to be a part of the 10-15 significant walks throughout the District
- No new tracks are being created, using the footprints of old tracks, created by locals many years ago.
- Other tracks in other areas taking place; Tairua/Pauanui, Whangamata and Whitianga.
- The intention is to spread the load over the Mercury Bay and not to centralise it in Hahei.

3 - John Gaukrodger

- Working for DOC, based in the Thames Office and in partnership with TCDC.
- History of the historic tracks within Hahei and bound.
- We are really just legitimising the old tracks local pioneers have created over the years. As well as allowing public access to them.
- Most of the land that the Great Walks track will go over is already administered by DOC.
- Background on how this project came about and from.
- Private land owner interest has been a big push.

4 - Public Questions - Facilitated by and through the Chair - Sheree Webster

- Name to be stated at the being and one relevant question per person, to make sure everyone gets a say.

5 - A question and answer forum commenced at 10:25am

- Attendees were invited to ask one question only, a total 79 questions were put to Towler, Gaukrodger, Whittaker and Kelly.

6 - A summary of questions and Answers is as follows.

- **Question:** Why not create a truly coastal walk?
Answer - Terrain, loss of marginal strip, cost prohibitive.
- **Question:** Proposed Car Park at Lees Road, additional traffic, current road condition, Stella Everard Reserve and cost, loss of business from Village.
Answer - If Carters Lees Road car park goes a head the road will be sealed to the car park. Further work will need to be carried out to Stella Everard Reserve. An agreement has not been finalised with Carters yet, therefore full scope design and costing has not been done. It is believed that more people visiting the area with additional shuttle services will increase business at the Village.
- **Question:** Grange Road congestion, shuttle, park and ride and additional parking.
Answer - Shuttle service will run through until anniversary weekend (now Waitangi weekend). Additional parking will be available at the waste water treatment plant. Grange Road illegal parking will be managed. The whole issue of parking park and ride and shuttle services needs to be reviewed.
- **Question:** Miles Media Report - Is the data still current given the track is no longer point to point.
Answer - It is believed the data provided is still current, there may be a need to make further assumptions.
- **Question:** Cathedral Cove, additional impact and track maintenance.
Answer - DOC are upgrading the track, having a second access point via Lees Road will spread some of the load, providing additional walking tracks and provide options.
- **Question:** Existing infrastructure problems - Grange Road, Pa Road, parking throughout the village, many more people visiting, these all need to be addressed.
Answer - Agreed, Council and DOC together with the stakeholders group do need to address capacity and management issues before new tracks are built.
- **Question:** Funding - If the \$4.7 million required for the project is not secured the project will not proceed?
Answer - Correct - We have \$1.5 million secured and need to raise the remainder externally.

7 - The Hahei Stakeholders Group, with as wide as possible representation, is to be formed as soon as possible.

8 - No physical work on the Cathedral Coast track will take place in the interim and until the wider issues have been addressed.

9 - Meeting concluded at 12.10pm