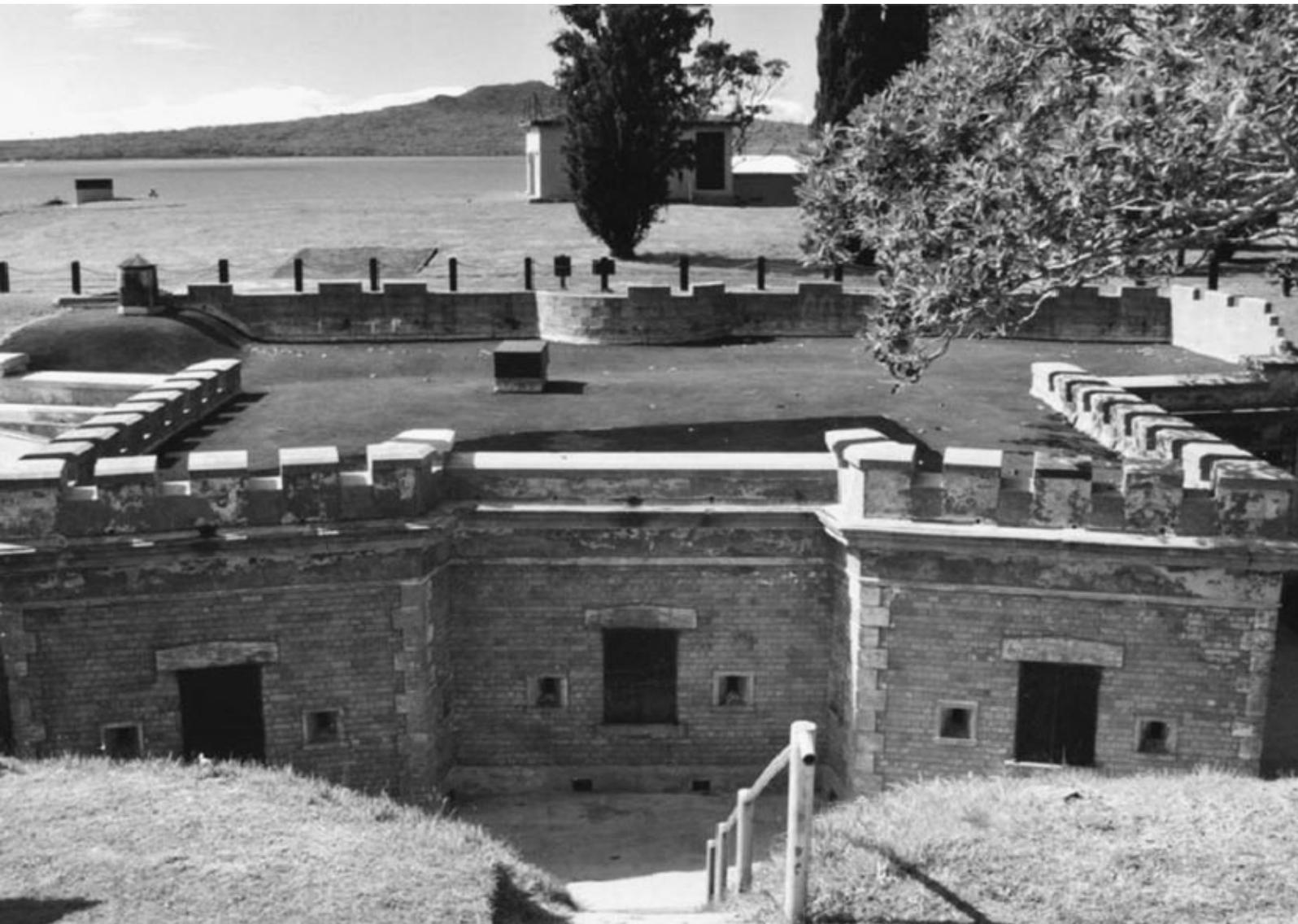


Auckland Conservancy recreation opportunities review

Submissions analysis and decisions

OCTOBER 2004



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

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This report is the conclusion of the department's public consultation process 'Towards a Better Network of Visitor Facilities', a Recreation Opportunity Review aimed at confirming with the public the mix of visitor facilities needed to provide the recreational opportunities most desired on public conservation land.

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1. Message from the Conservator

The following report details the content of submissions received by Auckland Conservancy as part of the recreation opportunity review public consultation period, and reports on other feedback received through public meetings and discussion with stakeholders during this period.

The Auckland Conservancy made decisions after taking account of the submissions and other information received, and following a national assessment process including key national recreation associate organisations. These decisions align with the strategic direction as covered by the Principles to Guide a Core Facility Network and the key Policy and Strategic directions referred to within these, or where there has been identified a preference through submissions to vary from this direction, these cases have been noted.



Rob McCallum
Auckland Conservator

29 September 2004

2. Executive summary

This report outlines decisions that have been made on visitor facilities as a result of submissions received on the discussion document, 'Towards a Better Network of Visitor Facilities: Auckland Conservancy Proposal Summary'.

Auckland Conservancy is a metropolitan place, set in the context of a rich natural environment and shaped by its marine environment. Wilderness and wildlife habitats exist on the doorstep of the county's largest city, and a visible historic and cultural heritage dominates its skyline. It also has the largest and most ethnically diverse population with about 1.3 million people living within the conservancy boundaries. The Department manages about 36,000 hectares of public conservation lands in Auckland Conservancy. Two thirds of this is on islands in the Hauraki Gulf and the remote Kermadec Islands, with the rest scattered among some 300 protected areas on the mainland. The department also manages five marine reserves.

Consultation on the discussion document was undertaken by way of:

- Letters to recreation groups and key associates informing them of the launch of the process and follow up letters

- Public meetings in Auckland and Claris and Port Fitzroy on Great Barrier Island to introduce the contents of the discussion document
- Meetings with stakeholders over key issues of concern
- Temporary signage at visitor sites informing the public about the process and where to obtain the discussion document

97 submitters made submissions on the proposals in the discussion document with 72 percent of submitters being individuals and the remainder being group submitters. Comment was received on 81 visitor facility proposals.

Recreation opportunities provided by DOC in Auckland are mainly day walks and places to visit near urban areas. There are a number of high use short-stop day visitor sites such as North Head Historic Reserve and Goat Island Bay in Cape Rodney-Okakari Point Marine Reserve, both of which receive over 300,000 visitors each year. Islands easily accessed by commercial ferry such as Rangitoto, Tiritiri Matangi and Kawau also receive high numbers of visitors. Many of these sites will be upgraded over the next five years to ensure they meet service standards and provide quality visitor experiences.

The department also manages a small number of walkways and tracks on the mainland which submissions have confirmed are valued by local communities. These are complemented by the Auckland Regional Council's day tramps in the Waitakere and Hunua ranges and broad recreational opportunities in its coastal regional parks.

Great Barrier Island offers some excellent backcountry walking and tramping in a relatively unmodified landscape, and also has a number of coastal sites for overnight camping, which are very popular over the summer period. Proposals on Great Barrier Island received the highest level of interest with decisions reflecting the support for an enhanced backcountry network of tracks and huts in the central part of the island and the need to maintain remote experience values in the northern (Te Paparahi) end of the island. The current suite of campsites will be maintained.

The decisions on these submissions have resulted in the following key changes to the proposals in the discussion document:

- Two of the four proposed huts on Great Barrier Island (Mt Heale and Waipapa Bay) have been retained.
- Kaiaraara Hut will be kept in its current location until the new Mt Heale Hut has been built. At that time, the Department will be investigate whether it is able to be moved to a new location on the Forest Road which would provide a more logical overnight tramp between Whangaparapara and Port Fitzroy.
- Awana campsite will be maintained at a smaller capacity rather than removed.
- Proposals for new campsites at Sunny Bay, Kawau Island and Islington Bay, Motutapu Island have not been retained.
- Four new backcountry campsites have been added: 3 on Great Barrier Island (Miners Cove, Rangihakaea Bay, Kiriwiri Bay), and 1 at Wreck Bay, Rangitoto Island (subject to a change in the Conservation Management Strategy). Another one on Waiheke Island or elsewhere within the inner Hauraki Gulf is being investigated.

- Community proposals for the maintenance of Sunny Bay and Two House Bay wharves will be sought prior to the Department making a final decision about their future.
- Logues Bush track will be maintained by the Department instead of the proposal 'maintain by the community'.
- Vinings Walkway will be maintained subject to a co-management agreement being resolved with tramping clubs.
- Mt William Walkway (Mt William trig to Puketutu Rd section) will be maintained by the Department instead of the proposal 'close site/remove all assets'.
- Visitor facilities which can be upgraded for disabled access have been indicated in this report.

3. Introduction

Public consultation was undertaken as part of the department's recreation opportunity review 'Towards a Better Network of Visitor Facilities'. Consultation was launched on 30th September 2003, with a press release from the Minister of Conservation and a press release from this conservancy. Letters were sent to local recreation groups and other key associates inviting them to attend public meetings during October 2003 to learn about the consultation process. Proposal documents and background resource material were made available and put on the DOC website to provide the basis for making submissions.

Further information about the submission process was provided by way of follow up letters to local recreation groups and key associates, and temporary signage at visitor sites informing the public about the process.

Meetings were held with tramping clubs affiliated to the Auckland Associated Mountain Clubs, individuals and organisations with an interest in Sunny Bay on Kawau Island, Kiwi Association of Sea Kayakers, North Shore Disabled Persons Assembly, Awana Catchment Trust and Awana Beachcare Group to explore some issues further.

Project teams were established in each DOC Area office (Auckland, Warkworth and Great Barrier) to analyse submissions and recommend decisions to the Auckland Conservator. A conservancy project team was established to oversee consistency between Area offices, troubleshoot issues and keep an overview of timeframes.

IWI

Iwi were advised of the review of recreation facilities but none chose to take up the opportunity to submit on the proposals.

PROCESS OF SUBMISSION CONSIDERATION

31/1/2004	Closing date for submissions
1/2 - 1/3	Submissions entered into dedicated database (all project team members have read-only access to database)
12/3	Conservancy project team meeting held at Conservancy with Technical Support Officer (TSO) Recreation Planner, Community Relations Manager (CRM), Community Relations Supervisor (CRS) and the three Area Managers (AM's) to discuss analysis process.
12/3 - 22/4	Area project teams (TSO Recreation Planner, Area Manager, Programme Manager Visitor Assets) meet to discuss submissions and make draft decisions.
26/4-30/4	Decisions entered into the Visitor Asset Management System (VAMS) and circulated to other project team members for review.
19/4 - 28/4	First draft of analysis report written and circulated to Technical Support Manager (TSM), CRM, CRS, AM's and PM's for comment.
29/4-30/4	Comments received and analysis report revised and final draft of analysis report given to Conservator for review
1/5	Any changes to decisions entered into VAMS.
11/5	Comments on decisions from Auckland Conservation Board received.
17/5	Final draft of report approved by Conservator and sent to DOC Southern Regional Office.

SUBMISSION ANALYSIS PROCESS

- Submissions entered into database.
- Submissions are categorised according to whether they are in support of the proposals or whether they are against it.
- Submissions are analysed for general points in relation to the proposals or to other issues, locally regionally or nationally.
- Proposals are ranked. Those that received the most submissions are analysed in detail. Those proposals that received a minor number of submissions are also analysed to determine the weight of submissions.
- For all proposals that received many opposing submissions these submissions are considered for merit. Possible decisions are considered in view of submissions with merit and in view of strategic objectives for that location, for example the Auckland Conservation Management Strategy (CMS).
- Proposals with a mix of opposing and supporting submissions have submissions checked for merit, and the strategic intent behind the proposal checked for consistency with submission points.
- Those proposals that received no submissions are accepted provided that the original proposal reasons still stand and no general submission theme arising from further analysis influences that decision.
- All decisions that differ from original proposals were considered together to establish the effect this may have on the range of Conservancy recreation opportunities.

WHAT THE DECISIONS MEAN

The Department of Conservation is making decisions on visitor facility proposals in order to provide the public of New Zealand and associated user groups with some surety about the future core network of visitor facilities to support recreation into the foreseeable future. These decisions will guide resource commitment and work programmes for the department.

There remain some factors that cannot be accurately forecast or guaranteed at this point in time such as: future construction costs, the durability of existing and new facilities, the effects of changing weather patterns, and changing user group priorities. As a result, these decisions may not be set in stone.

Formal planning processes will continue to provide the mechanism for these decisions to be changed as needed and to ensure public input (e.g. CMS review), and conservation boards will assist the department to manage any issues that arise.

Part One – Data analysis

4. Submitters and submissions

This section provides information on the number of submissions, the nature of submissions and a description of their content.

4.1 NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS

- 97 submitters made 498 submissions between them, representing comment on 81 proposals
- Submitters were made up of 27 group submissions and 70 individual submissions
- 84.5% of submitters came from within the conservancy, 4.1% from neighbouring conservancies, and 11.4% from further away
- No submissions made direct reference to the Principles to Guide the Core Facility Network (contained in the National Resource Document)
- 53 submissions contained comment that related to regional or national issues, as well as (or instead of) comment on specific proposals
- 68% of submissions were supporting proposals and 16% were opposing proposals

4.2 MAIN PROPOSALS COMMENTED ON, BY ORDER OF TOTAL SUBMISSIONS.

VISITOR FACILITY (ASSET) NAME		SUBMISSIONS
Proposed Kiwiriki Hut (BCA)	29	(24 for / 5 against)
Proposed Waipapa Bay Hut (BCC)	29	(23 for / 6 against)
Proposed Awana Waterfall Hut (BCC)	28	(21 for / 6 against)
Proposed Mt Heale Hut (BCC)	28	(25 for / 3 against)
Awana campsite (ON)	15	(2 for / 13 against)
Kaiaraara Hut (DV)	12	(12 for / 0 against)
Forest Road (BCC)	11	(8 for / 3 against)
Sunny Bay (Shultz's) Cottage (DV)	11	(9 for / 2 against)
Two House Bay-Sunny Bay track (DV)	11	(5 for / 6 against)
Logues Bush track (DV)	9	(6 for / 3 against)
Proposed Motuora Hut (ON)	8	(8 for / 0 against)
Proposed Te Paeroa Track (BCC)	8	(8 for / 0 against)
Harataonga Coastal walkway (BCC)	7	(7 for / 0 against)
Okura Bush walkway (DV)	7	(7 for / 0 against)
Proposed Sunny Bay campsite (DV)	7	(3 for / 4 against)
Sunny Bay wharf (DV)	7	(2 for / 5 against)
Two House Bay wharf (DV)	7	(0 for / 7 against)
Proposed Whangawahia track (BCC)	7	(7 for / 0 against)
Vining walkway (BCA)	7	(3 for / 1 neither / 4 against)
Proposed Islington Bay campsite (DV)	6	(0 for / 6 against)
Port Fitzroy Guest Cottage (ON)	6	(2 for / 4 against)
Proposed Lake Ototoa track (DV)	4	(2 for / 2 against)
Mt William walkway (farm section) (BCA)	4	(0 for / 4 against)

4.3 PROPOSALS THAT RECEIVED THE MOST SUBMISSIONS AND SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS, BY LOCATION.

AUCKLAND AREA

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	FACILITY NAME (SUBMISSIONS)	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS
Mainland tracks			
96588	Okura Bush walkway - Dacre Cottage to Stillwater (7)	Upgrade to bring to standard	7 submissions were in favour of the proposal to upgrade this track to walking track standard. None opposed it being upgraded.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	FACILITY NAME (SUBMISSIONS)	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS
96580 96605	Vining walkway (7)	Maintain by community	2 submissions were in favour of the proposal to have this track maintained by a community group. 1 submission was neutral. 4 submissions opposed DOC not maintaining the walkway itself. The main reason for opposition was that local tramping clubs have secured legal access in principle across the farmland section and the track forms part of a longer day tramping trip into the Hunua Ranges.
96583	Mt William walkway (farm section) - Mt William trig to Puketutu Road (4)	Remove (and do not replace)	No submissions were received in support of this proposal. 4 submissions opposed the proposal. The main reasons for opposition were that the walkway is popular for families and that walking on farmland is a valued recreation opportunity.

Rangitoto and Motutapu Island

100318	Proposed Islington Bay campsite (6)	Replace - bigger size	No submissions were received in support of this campsite although subsequent consultation with the Kiwi Association of Sea Kayakers revealed support for a campsite here. 6 submissions opposed the proposal. The main reasons for opposition were potential vandalism of neighbouring baches, increased rubbish, lack of shelter, effects on nesting dotterels and duplication of facilities at Home Bay on Motutapu Island.
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GREAT BARRIER AREA

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	FACILITY NAME (SUBMISSIONS)	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS
Great Barrier – Proposed hut network			
32545	Proposed Kiwiriki Hut (29)	Proposed	24 submissions supported the proposal. 5 opposed. Submissions in support welcomed the expansion of tramping opportunities on GBI. The main reasons for opposition were increased fire risk, proximity to coast and road-ends and the risk of squatters.
191391	Proposed Waipapa Bay Hut (29)	Proposed	23 submissions supported the proposal. 6 opposed the proposal. Submissions in support welcomed the expansion of tramping opportunities on GBI. The main reasons for opposition were increased fire risk, proximity to road-ends, risk of squatters, and effects on natural character of coastline.
192459	Proposed Awana Waterfall Hut (28)	Proposed	21 submissions supported the proposal. 6 opposed the proposal. Submissions in support welcomed the expansion of tramping opportunities on GBI. The main reasons for opposition were increased fire risk, proximity to Aotea Rd, risk of pollution of Awana Stream, diminution of natural values, and proximity to other proposed huts.
191397	Proposed Mt Heale Hut (28)	Proposed	25 submissions supported the proposal. 3 opposed the proposal. Submissions in support welcomed the expansion of tramping opportunities on GBI. The main reasons for opposition were competition with local accommodation providers, proximity to road-ends and diminution of natural values.
25965	Kaiaraara Hut (12)	Maintain	12 submissions supported the proposal. None opposed.
GBI campsites and booked accommodation			
100004	Awana campsite (15)	Cease Maintenance	2 submissions supported the proposal. 13 opposed the proposal. The main reasons for opposition were that informal and uncontrolled camping would increase, that current effects on wildlife could be mitigated through site design and education, and that a valued recreation opportunity would be lost.

VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	FACILITY NAME (SUBMISSIONS)	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS
96449	Port Fitzroy Guest Cottage (6)	Remove (and not replace)	2 submissions supported the proposal. 4 opposed the proposal. The main reasons for opposition were that families and disabled persons would find this facility more convenient than camping, and it has been used in the past by school groups.
GBI Tracks			
96391	Forest Road (11)	Upgrade to Standard	8 supported the proposal to manage Forest Road as a dual purpose easy tramping or mountain biking track. 4 opposed the proposal. Main reasons for opposition were the loss of 4WD recreation opportunity, the current standard of road being perceived as fine for trampers and mountain bikers, and loss of access for less able visitors.
96451	Proposed Te Paeroa track (8)	Proposed	8 supported the proposal as part of the development of a multi-day tramping circuit. None opposed the proposal.
96399	Proposed Whangawahia Track (7)	Maintain at Lower Standard	7 supported the proposal as part of the development of a multi-day tramping circuit. None opposed the proposal.
New proposals			
	Te Paparahi (13)	n/a	9 submissions promoted new facilities in Te Paparahi Stewardship Area (northern end of Great Barrier) – new tracks, huts and campsites. Reasons given included providing for overnight sea kayaking trips and a more remote & difficult tramping than other parts of the island. Also mentioned was its relatively unmodified nature and that the current ‘there and back’ track is not interesting.

WARKWORTH AREA

Visitor Facility Number	Facility name (Submissions)	DOC Proposal	Summary of Submissions
Kawau Island			
26232	Sunny Bay (Shultz's) Cottage (11)	Maintain by Community	9 submissions supported the proposal for a community group to manage the Cottage as booked accommodation. 2 submissions opposed in part the proposal on the basis that if a community group was not forthcoming that the cottage would be removed.
96556	Two House Bay-Sunny Bay track (11)	Maintain by Community	5 submissions supported the proposal for a community group to maintain the track. 5 submissions opposed the proposal on the basis that DOC should maintain the track. Some submitters misunderstood the location of the track which runs between Two House Bay and Shultz's Cottage at the western end of Sunny Bay (and not to Wilson Ave).
192453	Proposed Sunny Bay campsite (7)	Proposed	3 submissions supported the proposal. 4 submissions opposed the proposal. The main reasons for opposition were risk of fire and litter, and a preference for the two houses on the site being offered to a community group to manage as booked accommodation.
33473	Sunny Bay Wharf (7)	Maintain by Community	2 submissions supported the proposal. 5 submissions opposed the proposal. The main reasons for opposition were that the Department should maintain responsibility for the wharf to allow future expansion of recreation opportunities on Kawau Island Historic Reserve.
26228	Two House Bay Wharf (7)	Remove (and do not replace)	No submissions supported the proposal. 7 submissions opposed the proposal. The main reasons for opposition were that the wharf was perceived to be historic, that the wharf was integral to the community group's plans for Sunny Bay, and that it provides alternative access to the reserve when there is high demand at neighbouring Mansion House Bay Wharf.

Visitor Facility Number	Facility name (Submissions)	DOC Proposal	Summary of Submissions
Mainland tracks			
96552	Logues Bush track (9)	Maintain by Community	6 submissions supported this proposal. 3 submissions opposed this proposal. The main reasons for opposition were that the community had put a great deal of effort into saving Logues Bush, the reserve has high ecological values, and the terrain is easier than nearby tracks.
191634	Proposed Lake Ototoa track (4)	Proposed	2 submissions supported the proposal. 2 submissions opposed the proposal. The main reasons for opposition were concerns about increasing public use and consequent effects on lake water quality and that its low key recreational qualities are valued.
96542	Moirs Hill walkway (pine forest section) (3)	Remove (and do not replace)	1 submission supported the proposal. 1 was neutral but offered an alternative use (4WD). 1 opposed the proposal. The main reason for opposition was that the walkway is part of a longer walkway proposal that was intended to start from Warkworth and that the young pine plantation is not a disadvantage.
Motuora Island			
192432	Proposed Motuora Hut (8)	Proposed	8 submissions supported the proposal. None opposed the proposal.

4.4 OTHER SUBMISSIONS ON PROPOSALS

- 46 (57% of total) other proposals received unanimous support from submissions and have largely been confirmed unchanged
- Four submitters sought better provision for four-wheel drive users in the Auckland region
- Two submissions (CCS National and CCS Auckland) sought facilities that are designed to take into account visitors with disabilities or impairments
- One submission (Cycling Advocates Network) sought that the needs of cycle touring recreationists be taken into account as a distinctly different group than mountain bikers.
- Submissions of a general nature were also received from NZ Deerstalkers Assoc. (facilities for hunters), Tourism Industry Association of New Zealand (take into account tourism industry concerns), Auckland Regional Council (seeks greater cooperation with DOC) and R.A. Ussher (take into account earlier walkway proposals)

4.5 PROPOSALS THAT DID NOT RECEIVE SUBMISSIONS

- There were no proposals that did not received submissions

5. User group meetings

Prior to submissions closing, meetings were held with:

Auckland Associated Mountain Clubs

A presentation on the conservancy's proposals was provided and comment was sought from representatives of the tramping clubs. The main concern expressed was over the proposed closure of Vinings Walkway if no community group was prepared to maintain it, the proposed closure of part of the farm section of Mt William walkway and the pine forest section of Moirs Hill Walkway. The view of the meeting was that the department was not putting enough effort into walkways and was not administering the Walkways Act properly. Attendees were invited to put submissions in concerning these proposals.

Individuals and groups with an interest in Sunny Bay, Kawau Island

Sunny Bay is a site located on Kawau Island Historic Reserve which is no longer required for management purposes (i.e. housing island staff). The department has received expressions of interest in using the site as an outdoor education centre or using the houses for booked accommodation. A campsite has also been considered a possibility for the site. Because of strong interest in the future use of the site, a public meeting was held to explain the different options and seek feedback from groups and individuals on these options. A preferred option was not resolved at the meeting but the attendees were invited to make submissions on the different proposals.

Following the closing date of submissions meetings were held with:

- Kiwi Association of Sea Kayakers
- CCS and Disabled Persons Assembly
- Awana Catchment Trust and Awana Beachcare Group

The decisions on submissions also reflect the information shared at these meetings.

6. Summary of general points from submissions

AUCKLAND AREA

Submitters expressed a clear desire to retain the current range of tracks and walkways (such as Mt William and Vinings) which are valued for their setting and the recreational opportunities they provide. The intention to expand day walking

and tramping opportunities on the mainland and Motutapu and Motuihe Islands and upgrade popular tracks and amenity areas received consistent support from submitters.

The proposal for a campsite at Islington Bay (Motutapu Island side) was not supported on account of potential conflicts between different users (bach and day visitors) and other adverse effects. It was intended that the proposed campsite would cater for kayakers undertaking multi-day trips around the inner Hauraki Gulf and support by the kayaking community led to the department investigating alternative locations.

GREAT BARRIER ISLAND AREA

Submitters support the concept of an enhanced range of backcountry tracks and huts to facilitate multi-day easy tramping trips. Much of the discussion was centred on the number of huts required and where they should be located. The consensus appears to be that the central Great Barrier conservation area requires three huts and they should be located away from roads and not too accessible to the water (which it is argued could lead to them being abused by boaties and squatters). Most submitters also supported Forest Road being upgraded to dual mountain biking/easy tramping track standard.

A number of submitters sought resources for new facilities to be used in the northern forested area of Great Barrier, Te Paparahi Stewardship Area. While submitters were in agreement that the remote values of this area should be retained, they are seeking a higher level of facility provision that could lead to an erosion of those values in the event of future visitor growth to the island. At the same time, the current track which leads to Tataweka Trig is clearly not providing a quality experience for visitors.

The current range of coastal camping experiences is highly valued and submitters supported the provision of cooking shelters. The proposal to close Awana campsite was overwhelmingly opposed by submitters. A number of well-argued reasons why the campsite should not be closed has led to a re-think and the formulation of an alternative solution that will potentially better manage adverse effects occurring at the site. The proposal to remove Akapoua Cottage received a low number of objections concerned that the department would not be providing a range of accommodation options at Port Fitzroy.

WARKWORTH AREA

There was good support for retaining and expanding day walking and tramping opportunities on the mainland. Submitters objected to the proposal for having Logues Bush track maintained by the community and have provided valid reasons why it should be maintained by the department centred on its ecological significance and its suitability for easier walking than other tracks in the Warkworth Area.

There was clear support for a new hut on Motuora Island to replace the current booked accommodation.

The future provision of recreation opportunities on Kawau Island received the most attention from submitters. The intention of the proposals was to concentrate day use on existing tracks and amenity areas, and offer Shultz’s Cottage to the community to maintain, as alternative holiday accommodation on the island did not warrant the department retaining the cottage. At the same time, a campsite was proposed at Sunny Bay to be considered alongside concession proposals. The department also indicated that two out of the three wharves were not required. Submitters objected to any reduction of facilities, but there was some support for allowing the community to come up with a proposal to manage those facilities that were no longer needed—Shultz’s Cottage, track between Two House Bay and Shultz’s Cottage, and Two House and Sunny Bay wharves. The upgrading of visitor facilities on the island was strongly supported. The future use of Sunny Bay has yet to be decided and will be further considered outside this process.

Part Two - Decisions on submissions

7. Making decisions.

AUCKLAND AREA

FACILITY NAME	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION REQUESTS	DOC DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
Mainland tracks				
Vining walkway (7)	Maintain by Community	Maintain/Community Maintenance	Owned by DOC but maintain by community	The walkway duplicates to a certain extent opportunities provided by the ARC in the Hunuas. However the walkway is valued by the local tramping community who have secured ‘in principle’ legal access across the farmland. The decision is to continue to explore options for the walkway to be co-managed by DOC and tramping clubs. Tramping clubs would maintain the track and DOC would be responsible for gazettal of the walkway, and structures and signs.
Mt William walkway (farm section) (4)	Remove (and do not replace)	Maintain	Maintain	The walkway provides an easier walk across farmland (compared to the southern section) which is valued as an opportunity by tramping clubs and families. Will re-open negotiations with underlying landowners to gazette walkway.

FACILITY NAME	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION REQUESTS	DOC DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
Rangitoto and Motutapu Island				
Proposed Islington Bay campsite (6)	Proposed	Delete proposal	Delete proposal	The need for a campsite in this area has been reassessed and it is considered that this site should remain a day visitor destination. The desire to establishing a multi-day kayaking trail around the inner Gulf will instead be achieved by establishing a backcountry campsite at Boulder Bay on the northern side of Rangitoto Island. This will require a change to the CMS when it comes up for review in 2005.

New proposals

Facilities for disabled visitors (1)	Proposed	Proposed by submitter	Accept proposal in part	The Conservancy has noted that Auckland Regional Council and territorial authorities provide recreation opportunities suitable for disabled persons. We have identified the following amenity areas and tracks that would be suitable for upgrading to disabled access and would provide a distinct recreational opportunity: Fort Takapuna, North Head Historic Reserve, Miranda wildlife track, Rangitoto Wharf amenity area, Kidney Fern/Kowhai tracks on Rangitoto Island, and Islington Bay amenity area. We have also invited CCS to be involved in the design of the replacement for Rangitoto Wharf.
Waiheke campsite (1)	Proposed	Proposed by submitter	Accept proposal in principle	Kiwi Association of Sea Kayakers has asked if the department manages any land on Waiheke that would be suitable for overnight camping. This would facilitate links with kayaking opportunities in the inner Gulf and western Coromandel Peninsula coast. While the department supports this proposal in principle further investigation will be required prior to a final decision.
Bicycles on Rangitoto & Motutapu (1)	Proposed	Proposed by submitter	Accept proposal in principle	Trials in the past allowing bicycles on Rangitoto Island have not been successful primarily because cyclists took their bikes onto walking tracks thereby causing conflict with walkers. There are no difficulties in allowing bicycles on the roads on Rangitoto and Motutapu Island but there are some concerns about the level of compliance monitoring that would be required. The decision is to allow cycle-touring on the island roads subject to further detail about how and when this decision will be implemented.

GREAT BARRIER ISLAND AREA

FACILITY NAME	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION REQUESTS	DOC DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
Great Barrier – Proposed hut network				
Proposed Kiwiriki Hut (29)	Proposed	83% support. 7% delete proposal.	Delete proposal	An appropriate network of huts to enhance backcountry tramping on Great Barrier has been assessed. It is considered that if the other decisions for other huts are accepted then this hut would be unnecessary as it is less than 3 hours from where Kaiaraara Hut would be moved to (see below). Instead, it is proposed that a backcountry campsite be established at Kiwiriki Bay to cater for visitors in this catchment.

FACILITY NAME	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION REQUESTS	DOC DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
Proposed Waipapa Bay Hut (29)	Proposed	79% support. 21% delete proposal	Retain proposal	An appropriate network of huts to enhance backcountry tramping on Great Barrier has been assessed. This hut is integral to providing an extended tramp taking in Great Barrier Forest and the eastern coast of the island. Concerns about diminution of natural character and proximity the coast will be addressed through final choice of site location and design.
Proposed Awana Waterfall Hut (28)	Proposed	75% support. 25% delete proposal.	Delete proposal	An appropriate network of huts to enhance backcountry tramping on Great Barrier has been assessed. This hut would have allowed for the tramp between proposed Waipapa Bay and Mt Heale Huts (5-6 hours) to be broken into 2 days. However, the proposed hut does not meet the hut principle of being located at least 3 hours from a roadend. It is considered that while the distance between Waipapa Bay and Mt Heale is longer than ideal for BCC visitor group that it will still be within the capabilities of this visitor group.
Proposed Mt Heale Hut (28)	Proposed	89% support. 11% delete proposal.	Retain proposal	An appropriate network of huts to enhance backcountry tramping on Great Barrier has been assessed. This hut is considered integral to the development of backcountry opportunities on the island. It will be located at least 4 hours from the nearest road end and 3 hours from the nearest hut. Concerns about effects on natural values will be addressed through final choice of site location and design.
Kaiaraara Hut (12)	Maintain	Maintain	Move to another location	In assessing an appropriate network of huts for Great Barrier, the placement of this hut in close proximity to the roadend at Port Fitzroy has proved problematic. Submitters have expressed a clear desire for an overnight backcountry experience in the western catchments of the forest. To provide more evenly spaced huts and meet the principle of having huts at least 3 hours from the nearest roadend, it is proposed to move the hut to near the junction of Kiwiriki Track and Forest Road. This will provide a more logical overnight point for visitors tramping between Port Fitzroy and Whangaparapara townships. This decision will not be finalised until after the new Mt Heale hut is built.
GBI campsites and booked accommodation				
Awana campsite (15)	Cease Maintenance	Maintain	Maintain	It is accepted that the private campground nearby does not provide the same type of experience as the DOC campsite and that informal camping may continue to occur despite the campsite facilities being removed. Discussions with stakeholders over appropriate mitigation measures for reducing impacts on brown teal have included reducing the capacity of the campsite from 150 to 100 visitors and pulling the campsite back from the estuary edge. The effectiveness of these measures will be monitored.
Port Fitzroy Guest Cottage (6)	Remove (and not replace)	Maintain/ Remove	Remove (and not replace)	The submission process has not revealed a high level of concern about this proposal. Use of the cottage has been declining over the past few years. There are also other accommodation providers in the Port Fitzroy township who offer similar accommodation. Need to resolve staff accommodation issues before proceeding with removal.

FACILITY NAME	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION REQUESTS	DOC DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
GBI tracks				
Forest Road (11)	Upgrade to standard	Support (66%)/ Maintain 4WD access (33%)	Upgrade to easy tramping and MTB track	Forest Road has only been available for department and emergency vehicles and occasional one-off open days. The weight of public submissions more strongly supports the use of the road by trampers and mountain bikers. The upgrade of road surface will open up this opportunity to less experienced mountain bike users.
New proposals				
Te Paparahi (13)	Proposed	Proposed by submitters	Accept proposal in part	<p>The conservancy wishes to concentrate visitor use in the central forest area and maintain Te Paparahi Stewardship Area as a more remote experience area. The desire of submitters to have more tracks, campsites and possibly hut(s) if accepted in total would change the recreational values of this area.</p> <p>To maintain the remote values, it is proposed that backcountry campsites (5 tent sites maximum) be established at Miners Cove and Rangiwahakaea Bay to formalise the present system of camping by permit only. This will allow multi-day kayaking trips around the northern coast of Great Barrier. It is also proposed to establish a route from Burrills Track to Rangiwahakaea Bay and back via Te Kirikiri Bay to Tataweka trig. This will provide an overnight remote camping experience and improve the recreational values of the present track which are limited by its 'there and back' nature.</p>
Facilities for disabled visitors (1)	Proposed	Proposed by submitter	Accept proposal in part	<p>The Conservancy has identified 3 tracks that would be suitable for upgrading or building to disabled access: Kaitoke Hot Springs track, proposed Whangapoua Pateke track, and proposed Overtons (Harataonga) Beach access track.</p> <p>Campsite facilities at Akapoua, Whangapoua and Harataonga could be progressively upgraded to provide for disabled use as facilities are replaced.</p>

WARKWORTH AREA

FACILITY NAME	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION REQUESTS	DOC DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
Kawau Island				
Sunny Bay (Shultz's) Cottage (11)	Maintain by Community	Maintain by Community as booked accommodation	Seeking Community Maintenance	Decision is subject to the community group bearing all costs of bringing the cottage up to a standard suitable for booked accommodation.
Proposed Sunny Bay campsite (7)	Proposed	Delete proposal / Support	Delete proposal	The suitability of the site as a campsite has been reassessed against its historic reserve classification and private camping opportunities provided further up Bon Accord Harbour.
Sunny Bay wharf (7)	Maintain by Community	Community to maintain/ DOC to maintain	Seeking Community Maintenance	The wharf is not integral to supporting public access to this part of the historic reserve. Community interest in using the site as either an outdoor education centre or booked accommodation may mean that such a group may be interested in taking over the wharf.

FACILITY NAME	DOC PROPOSAL	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION REQUESTS	DOC DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
Two House Bay Wharf (7)	Remove (and do not replace)	DOC to maintain / Community to maintain	Seeking Community Maintenance	The wharf is not required to provide public access to the reserve as Mansion House Bay wharf is in close proximity. Community groups interested in Sunny Bay Cottage have requested that they be given the opportunity to take over the management of the wharf. This option will be explored prior to a final decision.
Mainland tracks				
Logues Bush track (9)	Maintain by Community	Community to maintain track / DOC to maintain	DOC to maintain	Submitters have raised issues that were not taken into account in formulating a proposal for this track including community involvement in the reserve's purchase and high ecological values. Maintaining an easy walking opportunity in the northern part of the Warkworth Area is supported.
Proposed Lake Ototoa track	Proposed	Support / Delete proposal	Retain proposal	The issues raised by submitters have been discussed with them. To ensure that potential increased use does not affect the lake's low key recreational values, a second parking area and track will be developed at the northern end of Lake Ototoa to spread visitor use.
Moirs Hill walkway (pine forest section)	Remove (and do not replace)	Support / Alternative use / Retain	Cease maintenance	There was a very low level of concern expressed about this proposal. However, it is recognised as being one of only two walkways formally gazetted in the conservancy. As the pine forest has been recently milled, it does not currently represent a worthwhile recreation opportunity. However, to preserve future options when the pine forest has become more mature, it is proposed to cease maintenance on the track for five years and reassess whether it should be re-opened then.
New Proposals				
Facilities for disabled visitors (1)	Proposed	Proposed by submitter	Accept proposal in part	The conservancy has identified 3 tracks that would be suitable for upgrading to disabled access: Moirs Hill wwy (Waterfall track), Logues Bush track, and Hobbs track on Tiritiri Matangi Island. Access to Cape Rodney-Okakari Point Marine Reserve at Goat Island Bay will also be improved to allow disabled access to the beach. Access for disabled visitors at Mansion House Bay and Tiritiri Matangi wharves will be assessed.

8. Summary of decisions

Overall the conservancy has been able to accommodate the majority of submitters' concerns through the decisions made.

Three out of four day-walking opportunities on the mainland part of Auckland and Warkworth Areas which had proposals other than 'maintain' or 'upgrade' have been reassessed. As a result Mt William walkway and Logues Bush track will be retained and maintained by the department. A co-management agreement will be negotiated with tramping clubs which will result in Vinings Walkway being retained. The only

walkway which will not be maintained (and that will be reviewed in 5 years time) is the pine forest section of Moirs Hill Walkway. Proposed new walking tracks contained in the discussion document received almost unanimous support from submitters and have been retained.

Additional camping opportunities for the inner Hauraki Gulf on Kawau Island (Sunny Bay) and at Islington Bay did not receive much support except from the sea kayaking community. As a result, we have identified an alternative location for backcountry standard campsites which will cater for sea kayakers but be able to be accessed by visitors on foot. This is proposed to be located at Wreck Bay on Rangitoto Island, which will require a change to the CMS. A second backcountry campsite to cater for kayakers in the inner Hauraki Gulf is being investigated (possibly on Waiheke Island). On Great Barrier Island, backcountry campsites have been proposed for Kiwiriki Bay, Rangiwhakaea Bay and Miners Cove which will cater for sea kayakers and trampers.

Submissions have confirmed that there is a high level of support for the strategic direction of improving backcountry opportunities on Great Barrier Island. In general, submitters tended to favour a network of three huts and the decisions support this preference. The department will proceed with huts near Mt Heale and Waipapa Bay but not Kiwiriki Bay or Awana waterfall. Once Mt Heale Hut has been built and depending on future visitor patterns, Kaiaraara Hut could be moved to a more central location on Forest Road. The upgrade of some tracks to easy tramping track standard and the creation of two new tracks to provide a more complete circuit were supported and will be carried forward.

A number of submissions were received seeking further recreation facilities in Te Paparahi Stewardship Area which is zoned a remote experience area. The conservancy wishes to take a cautious approach to opening up this area as it is virtually the only part of the conservancy with these remote values. It is proposed that existing remote campsites at Miners Cove and Rangiwhakaea Bay be formalised. A route into Rangiwhakaea Bay has been proposed for the future which would provide an enhanced remote experience compared to that provided by Burrills Track.

Opportunities for off-road cycle touring will be enhanced by allowing bicycles on Rangitoto and Motutapu Island roads, upgrading Forest Road and potentially the Harataonga Coastal Walkway.

Improved facilities for disabled visitors have been identified which will result in some short walks being upgraded to wheelchair accessible standard. A number of walking tracks have been identified as being suitable for upgrading to allow wheelchair access but will require advice on standards. Overnight camping opportunities on Great Barrier are proposed to be made accessible to disabled visitors as facilities are upgraded. There are a number of high profile amenity areas associated with nationally significant marine and historic reserves where access will be improved for disabled visitors.

9. Overview of decisions in terms of a range of recreation opportunities

The results of the decisions will have the following impact on the range of recreation opportunities:

- Opportunities for disabled visitors will increase through the upgrading of short walks and walking tracks, and associated amenity areas and toilets.
- One further day-walking opportunity has been retained, Logues Bush track, which is also proposed to be upgraded to disabled access standard. One further tramping track opportunity has been retained, Mt William walkway (Mt William trig to Puketutu Road) and it is likely that another, Vinings walkway, will be retained with management shared between DOC and tramping clubs.
- Overnight camping opportunities will be enhanced on Great Barrier Island rather than being reduced.
- Overnight camping opportunities on other Gulf Islands will be enhanced with backcountry-standard campsites being proposed for Boulder Bay (Rangitoto Island). A campsite on Waiheke Island or elsewhere in the inner Hauraki Gulf is being investigated. A proposed standard campsite at Sunny Bay has been deleted.
- The scale of enhancement of Backcountry Comfort Seeker opportunities has changed as a result of decisions. Two instead of four huts are proposed, while Kaiaraara Hut is proposed to be moved to a different location subject to further investigation of feasibility and timing. The proposed track upgrades and new proposals for easy tramping tracks remain unchanged as a result of decisions.
- Remoteness seeker opportunities in northern Great Barrier will be enhanced by a proposed new route to Rangiwhakaea Bay from Burrills route.
- Opportunities for mountain biking and cycle touring will be enhanced by:
 - allowing the roads on Rangitoto and Motutapu Island to be used by cyclists
 - a proposed dual use cycling and walking track, Duck Creek Walkway, in Warkworth Area
 - upgrading Harataonga Coastal walkway to dual use mountain biking and easy tramping track (with seasonal restrictions)

In summary, the decisions tend to reflect that walking opportunities in Auckland Conservancy are highly valued by submitters and submissions have raised some valid reasons for retaining Mt William walkway, Vinings walkway and Logues Bush walkway. Upgrading some short walks, walking tracks and associated facilities to disabled standard is seen positively by the disabled community and the Auckland Conservation Board.

Providing further basic overnight camping opportunities for sea kayakers is supported by the national sea kayaking organisation, KASK, and aligns well with the Auckland Conservancy Recreation Strategy. The overall cost of providing backcountry-standard campsites will not be significant, although retaining Awana campsite decreases the original proposed reduction in capital and maintenance costs.

Finally, the decisions for backcountry facilities on Great Barrier Island have been aided by considerable input from the public, which helped resolve the location and number of huts in the central part of the island and added new remoteness seeker opportunities in the northern part of the island, Te Paparahi Stewardship Area.

Appendix 1

WHAT THE DECISIONS MEAN

Decisions for facilities in the Conservancy have been made by DOC as an outcome of this process of consultation. The options for future management are grouped under 13 broad headings.

Maintain

The facility will continue to be maintained, to the appropriate standard, providing recreation opportunities the same as, or similar to, those currently available. If it is a building or a structure it will be replaced with a similar facility at the end of its useful life. DOC will bring the asset up to the required standard if it is not currently to the required standard.

Proposed (new)

A new facility will be developed in a place where there has not previously been one.

Replace

A new facility will be built replacing an existing facility that will soon reach the end of its useful life.

Upgrade to higher standard

The facility requires upgrading to a higher standard or to a larger size to meet the needs of the main visitor and/or mitigate against visitor impacts.

Maintain to lower standard

The facility will be maintained to a lower standard than has previously been the case. Often this will mean continuing to manage to a lower standard because the original standard intended for the facility was too high and never achieved.

Remove

Remove the facility (if a structure, sign, hut or building). If a hut, remove by the end of 2006. If a track, remove markers, plant out track entrances and leave the track to revert to a natural state, or assist this process if necessary.

Minimal maintenance

Used for huts and other buildings. The building will be inspected by DOC on a regular cycle. Inspectors will travel with basic tools and equipment and some minor maintenance (that can be done during the regular inspections) will be undertaken. When the building is no longer weatherproof or becomes dangerous or unsanitary,

it will be removed, unless there is a community group willing and able to bring it up to standard and maintained to standard (see Seeking Community Maintenance)

Cease maintenance

For tracks, markers will be left until they naturally disappear, but the track will be left to revert to a natural state. Roads are closed to motor vehicles. Carparks, amenity areas and campsites are left to revert to a natural state and any associated buildings or signs will be removed. Signs will be placed at track entrances stating that the track is no longer maintained.

Close site/remove all assets

Remove all assets (structures, signs, huts, track markers etc), plant out track entrances and leave the site to revert to a natural state. Closed sites will be removed from all visitor information. Where necessary the site or part of it will be rehabilitated.

Own by DOC but maintain by community

The facility is one DOC believes should be retained. It is one that could realistically be maintained by a club, community group or local authority. The facility may already be maintained by the community. A management agreement should be established if one is not already in place. The funding assumption is that DOC will not cover maintenance costs, but will fund inspections and replacement.

Owned and maintained by the community

The Department currently has a formal agreement in place with a club, community group or local authority to maintain the asset. If, in the future, that agreement falls over, the future of that asset will be determined following consultation with the community.

Seeking community maintenance

The asset currently has no formal agreement in place and is not one that DOC believes it should maintain at all. The facility should only be retained long term if the community agrees to take it on. It is one that realistically could be maintained by a club, community group or local authority. DOC will discuss ongoing maintenance and replacement of the facility with such groups and should establish a management agreement for that maintenance

Non-visitor DOC management

For facilities receiving very little or no visitor use, the facility will be managed by the department for other purposes, such as to accommodate pest control staff or to access a biodiversity conservation area. The facilities will not normally be available for visitor use.