

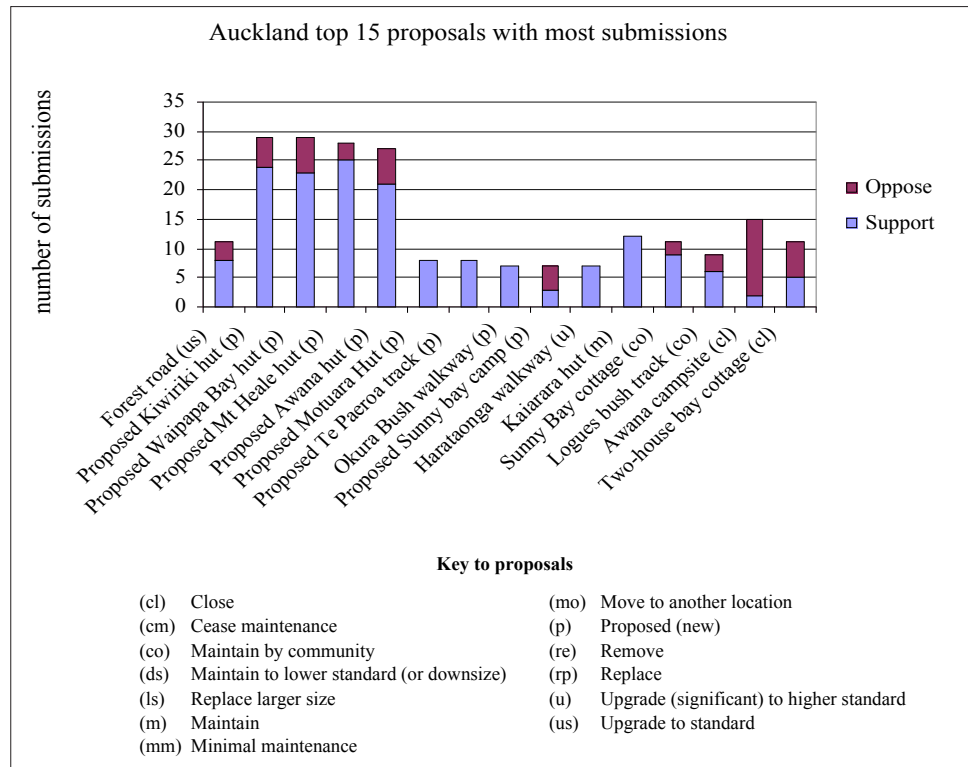


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Auckland Conservancy recreation opportunities review

Summary of submissions and decisions

Submission analysis



Submissions supported the Conservancy's proposals to upgrade tracks and walkways on the mainland to walking track standard. 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. 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 near Maungapiko. The upgrade of some tracks to easy tramping track standard also received support as did the creation of two new tracks to provide a more complete circuit.

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 the only sizable part of the Conservancy with these remote values. It is proposed that existing remote campsites at Miners Cove and Rangiwihakaea Bay be formalised. A route into Rangiwihakaea Bay has been proposed for the future which would provide an enhanced remote experience compared to that provided by Burrills Track.



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Te Papa Atawhai

Submitters generally supported the expansion of overnight opportunities on Hauraki Gulf islands and Great Barrier Island to facilitate sea kayaking.

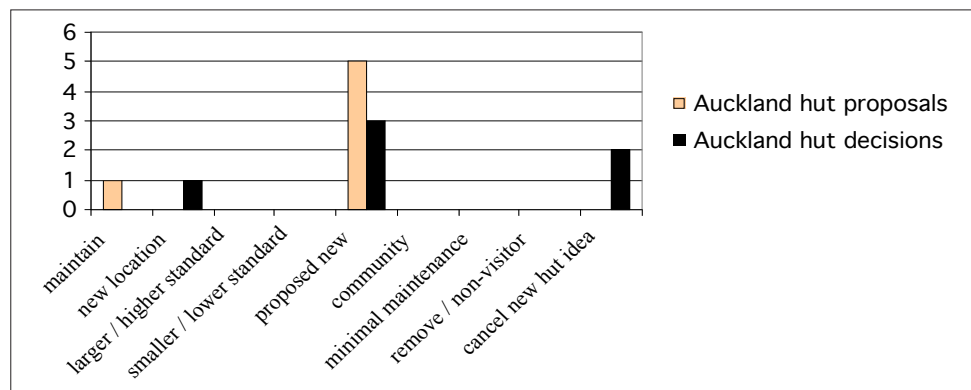
Submitters generally opposed the closing of walkways or devolving their management to the community.

Submitters expressed a high level of support for upgrading day walking opportunities to standard including associated carparks, and in general providing further opportunities throughout the Conservancy. Similarly the upgrading of tramping tracks to the easy tramping track standard was supported.

Decisions

The results of interim 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. Further work is required to determine the amount and staging of this work.
- Logues Bush track will be retained as a day-walking opportunity, which is also proposed to be upgraded to disabled access standard. Mt William walkway (Mt William trig to Puketutu Road) will be retained as a tramping track and it is likely that 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, due to the retention of Awana campsite and the proposed backcountry campsites at Kiwiriki Bay, Miners Cove and Rangiwhakaea Bay. This will involve the provision of a new toilet at each new campsites and ongoing inspection and maintenance.
- Overnight camping opportunities on other Gulf Islands will be enhanced with a backcountry-standard campsite being proposed for Wreck 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 will now not proceed.
- The scale of enhancement of higher service standard backcountry opportunities has been reduced from the original proposals. Two instead of four huts will be added, while Kaiaraara Hut will be moved to a different location subject to further investigation. The proposed track upgrades and new proposals for easy tramping tracks will proceed.
- 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 walking track, Duck Creek Walkway, in Warkworth Area
 - upgrading Harataonga Coastal Walkway to dual purpose mountain biking and easy tramping track (with seasonal restrictions)



Auckland Conservancy will manage 365 km of track in the future, 67 km more than the current track network. The changes in proposals for tracks, resulting from consultation, are shown in the following figure. The first bar represents the *change* in track length to be 'maintained' as *decisions* compared with *proposals*, and the other bars compare actual length of track first with *proposals* and then *decisions* to change from the current situation.

