

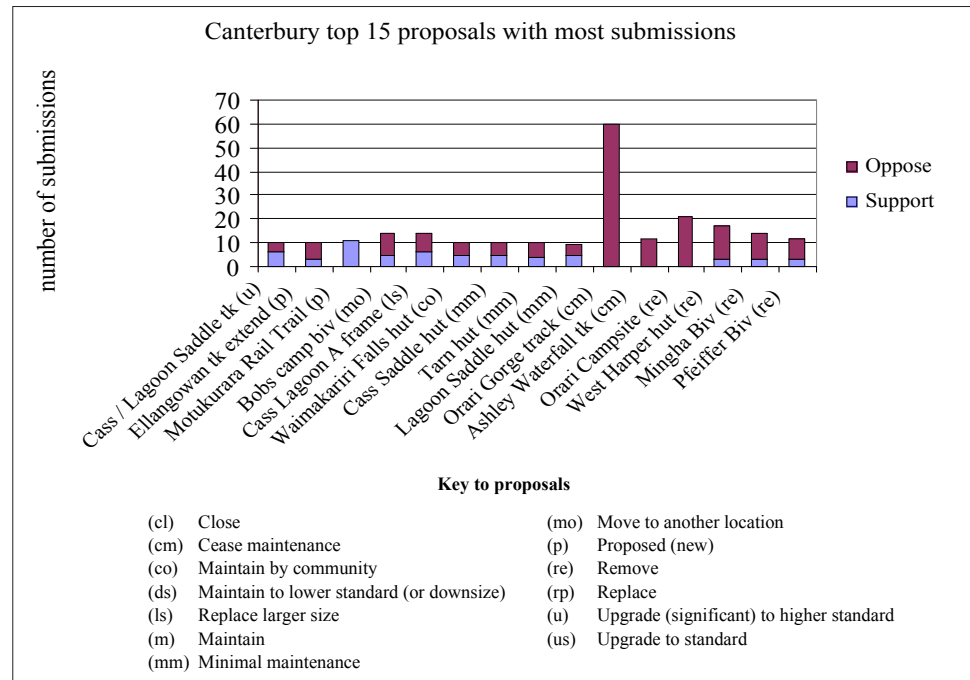


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Canterbury Conservancy recreation opportunities review

Summary of submissions and decisions

Submission analysis



- Orari Gorge track and campground / amenity areas attracted significant submissions opposing closure (60 and 21 respectively). The local public support for the area has been well demonstrated.
- The Cass Lagoon Saddle circuit facility proposals received mixed support, with preference to retain West Harper hut as historic, rationalising huts at Lagoon Saddle, and a preference to keep the track to basic tramping track standard.
- Ashley Waterfall track proposal to cease maintenance was opposed by all 12 submissions, but standard and access issues remain.
- Motukurara to Little River Rail Trail was supported by all 11 submissions.
- Seven other track and route and two new hut proposals were put forward via submissions.
- General issues identified through submissions were; DOC's new funding should allow all facilities to be maintained, DOC's new facilities cost too much, and facilities should be retained for safety reasons.

Decisions

Decisions tend to favour more day visitor and basic backcountry facility provision than was presented in the proposals, and also reflects the nature of the recreation opportunities managed in Canterbury Conservancy. Where proposals to remove or cease maintenance have been changed, the resulting decisions tend to be either



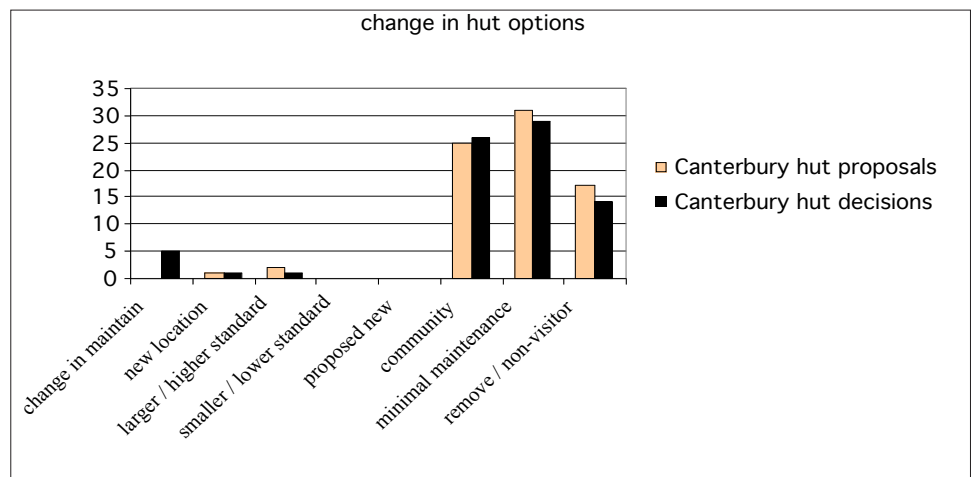
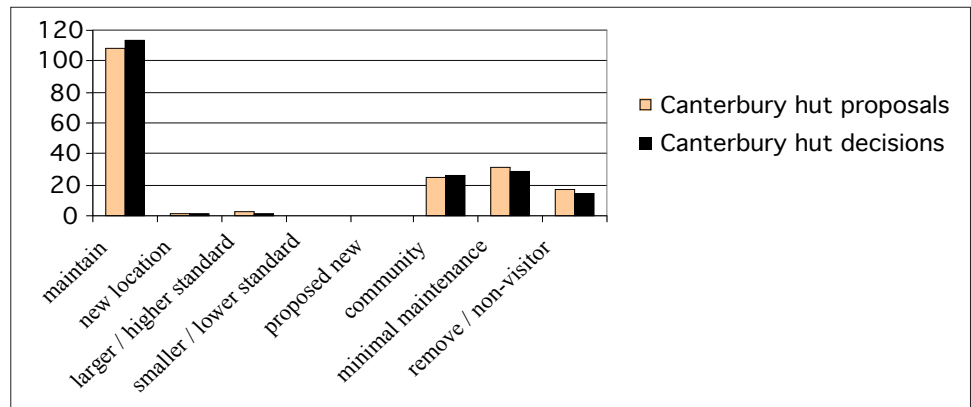
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Maintain or Replace - Smaller Size. Some minor balance has been achieved by one track and one hut being removed instead of Minimal and Cease maintenance. A key issue for the conservancy was the proposed closure of Orari Gorge facilities, which has now been changed to maintaining the track, campsite and access road.

Huts with changes from original proposal of minimal maintenance are:

- Snowy Gorge hut, Bobs Camp biv and Basins hut will now be maintained.
- Cass Saddle hut and Lagoon Saddle A frame will be retained on minimal maintenance and replaced with shelters at the end of their functional lives.
- South Opuha hut will be promoted for maintaining by a community group.
- Top Cox hut decision is for it to be removed.
- Track decisions see the Orari Gorge and Homebush tracks retained.
- Routes now to be retained in the system are Three Mile Steam route, Sylvia Tops Access route, Jollies Pass/ Isobel route, Wharfdale - Oxford route and Upper Salmon Creek.
- The Otehake swing bridge will be retained.
- A new track proposal for a Mount Thomas to Pinchgut route rationalising the existing tracks has been accepted.

This represents an increase in facility provision compared with the position presented in the conservancy proposals document.



Canterbury Conservancy will manage 1347km of track in the future, 60km 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.

