

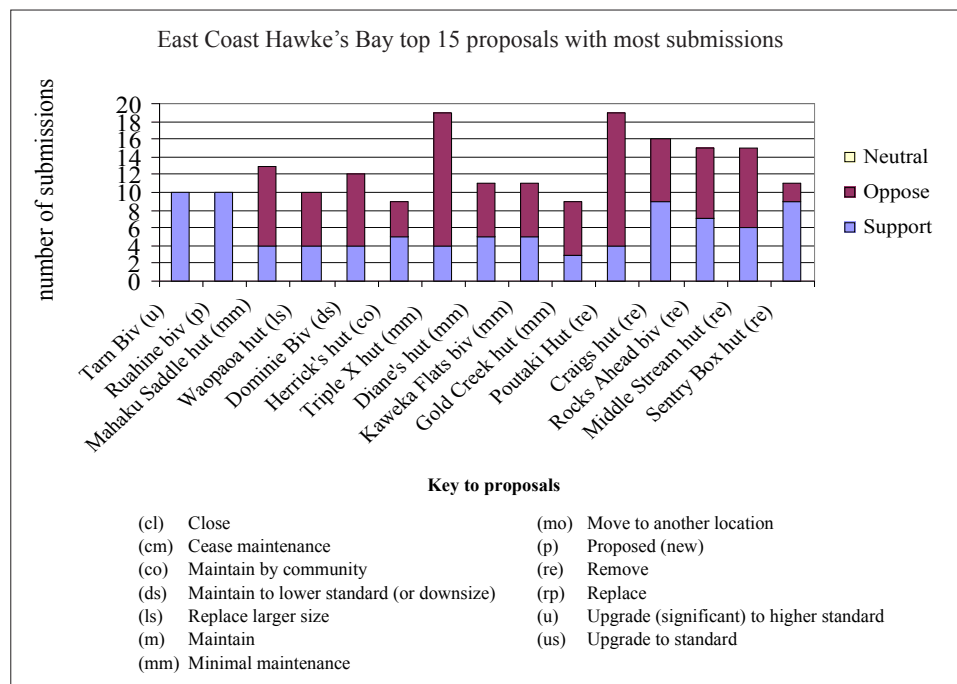


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East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservancy recreation opportunities review

Summary of submissions and decisions

Submission analysis



Two-thirds of all submissions on specific proposals focused on huts and bivvys with particular emphasis on the Ruahine and Kaweka Forest Parks.

Seventy-two DOC proposals received no comment. These were mainly for tracks and other non-accommodation facilities within Te Urewera National Park. This was surprising as the majority of proposed changes to tracks within the conservancy affected this National Park.

On the whole the quality of information submitted was very good. Aside from comments on specific proposals, submitters raised background concerns to try and inform the review process on key issues such as:

- Limited road access in the Ruahine
- Disabled access (Aniwaniwa Visitor Centre glaring)
- The perception that DOC is chasing tourism dollars at the expense the traditional New Zealander's backcountry experience
- The preference for small intimate huts in the backcountry
- The safety role of huts and bivvies
- Road end huts for families and the less able
- A need for updated visitor information to improve visitor safety
- Working closely with other providers e.g. Territorial Local Authorities, Iwi

Backcountry assets and in particular huts provided the main focus of debate within submissions.



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Decisions

As a result of considering submissions, 51 proposals have been changed. Decisions tend to favour day visitor and backcountry adventurer facility provision. There are fewer options considered likely to result in community management of facilities, fewer reductions in service standard and fewer removals of facilities to proceed.

Huts

Three huts were changed from "minimal maintenance" and "maintain at a lower standard" to "maintain" (Triplex hut, Dominie hut, Manganuku hut), one less hut removal (Poutaki hut) and one more hut upgrade (Parks Peak hut) will proceed.

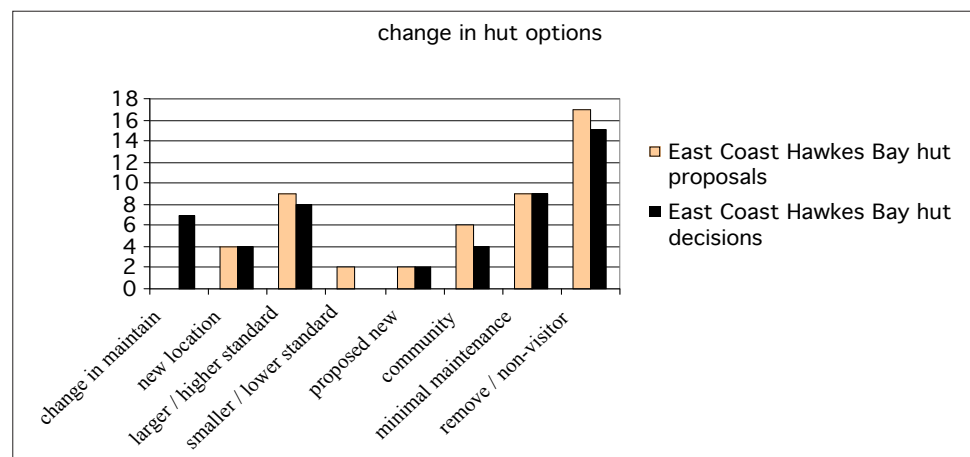
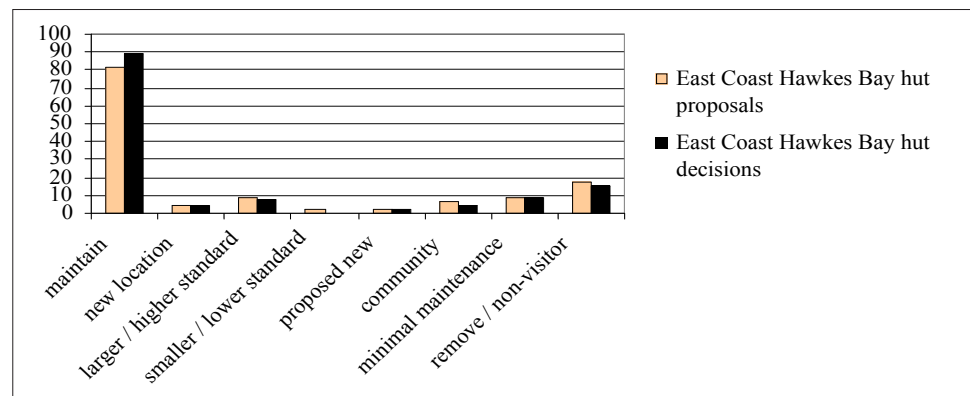
Tracks no longer to be phased out are; Kotepato track (seeking community maintenance), Longview / Makaretu hut - northern track (maintain northern section) and Mangakawa track (upgrade to a higher standard). One cableway on the Ngaruroro at Rocks Ahead Bivvy will be upgraded to a swing-bridge.

13 new proposals resulting from submissions were received for new tracks of which 7 have been accepted. Those agreed to include:

- Disabled access for Balls Clearing Scenic Reserve
- Re opening tracks in the Ruahine from Colenso Spur to Barlow's Hut and Parks Peak to Barlow's Hut
- Yeomans Track Extension to Mangleton Road
- Improving Ngawaaparua / Ngaruroro fishing access in the Kaweka
- Linkage from Waikaremoana to Whirinaki in Te Urewera
- Remark Stag Flat-Pakihi Route in Urutawa Conserveation Area

The Aniwaniwa Visitor Centre should be upgraded and made fully wheelchair accessible, which needs to be managed through a separate funding process.

For campgrounds, car parks, roads, structures and amenities only four DOC proposals were changed. An example is Boulders Campsite in the Te Waiti Valley, which will now be retained.



East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservancy will manage 1537km of track in the future, 72km less 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.

