

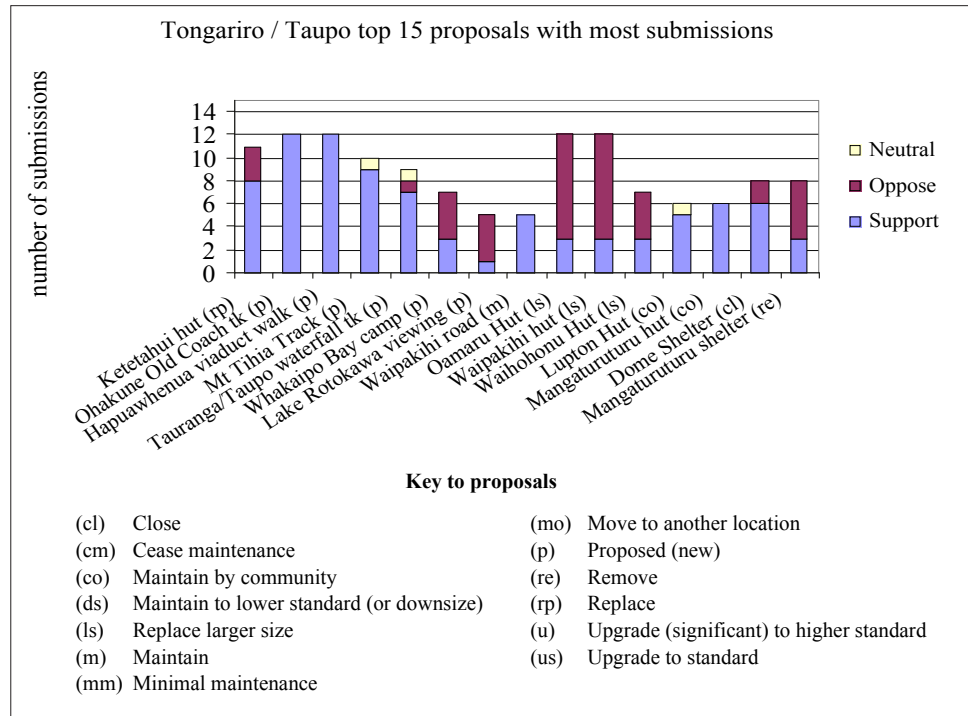


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Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy recreation opportunities review

Summary of submissions and decisions

Submission analysis



Ten hut proposals raised 74 submissions of which 35 were in agreement. Five of the proposals received general agreement from the public, with three of these proposals receiving unanimous support (for the “maintain by community” proposals).

The 10 track proposals raised 63 submissions, of which 49 were in support. Four of the proposals received unanimous support, three being new proposals and one to cease maintenance. One track proposal received no support.

Tongariro National Park

Submitters did not want to see a reduction of provision to facilities, but voiced concern at the cost of hut replacement, as well as the cost to stay in a Serviced hut while using a Tramping track (on which one would expect Standard huts).

Kaimanawa Forest Park

General comments were that access to the park, and between sections of the park, and to private land adjoining the park, are essential. Many submitters want to see basic service standards applied to most sites and facilities.



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Decisions

The two proposals to raise Kaimanawa Forest Park hut service standards received 12 submissions each, by submitters who did not want to pay more to use the huts. Other controversial hut proposals were for the removal of one shelter, and the removal of the visitor facilities from another shelter in the Tongariro National Park. These proposals received strong submitter resistance, with visitor safety being the main argument.

Tracks

Calls for more day walk opportunities in the Conservancy have been met with several proposals; the Ohakune Old Coach Rd, the Hapuawhenua Viaduct Historic Walk and Mt Tihia track in Tongariro National Park and the Tauranga/Taupo Waterfall Walk in the Kaimanawa Forest Park. These new additions will be balanced with the ceasing of maintenance to several low use opportunities in the Rangataua Forest.

A new proposed day walk opportunity North of Taupo (Lake Rotokawa) was not supported and has been dropped. It is anticipated that a community led initiative for the Lake Taupo Walkway, mostly crossing private land, will provide adequately for day walks within the vicinity of Taupo township.

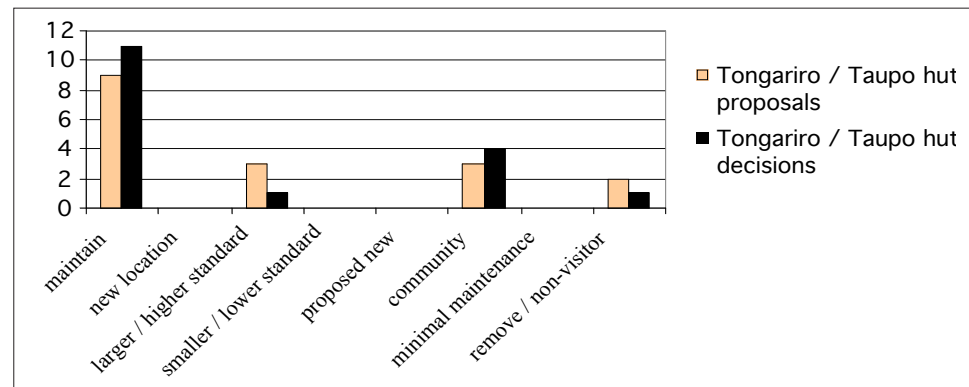
A major factor from submissions was the desire to resolve the public - private land issue within the Kaimanawa Forest Park. These issue cannot be resolved through this consultation process but will be pursued as opportunities arise.

Huts

The Conservancy will manage a full complement of Great Walk huts on the Tongariro Northern Circuit, in the Tongariro National Park. This will be enhanced by the managed replacement of two of the huts on this circuit.

The department looks to develop management agreements with hut users and community groups for four of its huts (three within the National Park, and one in the Tongariro Forest).

Two huts are to be removed from the Tongariro National Park visitor network - Dome Shelter to be retained for use by scientists and Mangaturuturu emergency shelter removed. The two Kaimanawa Forest Park huts proposed for increased service standard (Waipakihi hut and Oamaru hut) will now be maintained as standard huts. The strength of submission from users of the Kaimanawa Forest Park indicated that they valued the park in its present state, with a minimum of facilities.



Tongariro Taupo Conservancy will manage 493km of track in the future, 10km 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.

