

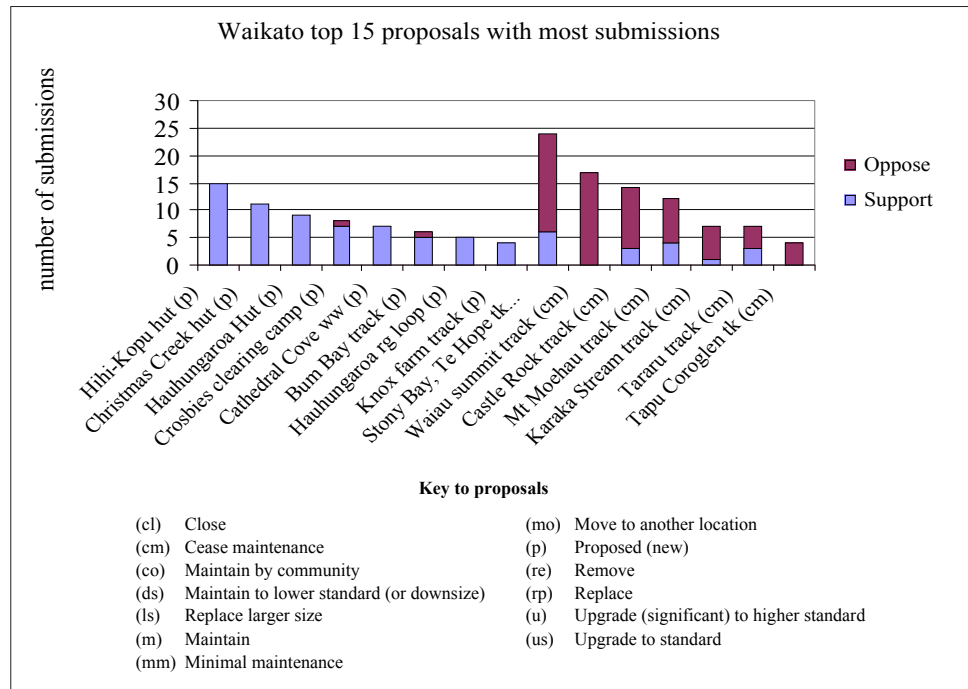


Published by:
 Department of Conservation,
 Southern Regional Office,
 P.O. Box 13-049
 Christchurch, New Zealand.
 October 2004.

Waikato Conservancy recreation opportunities review

Summary of submissions and decisions

Submission analysis



- Support was expressed for access to and through Whangamarino wetlands from National Wetlands Trust and Miranda Naturalist Trust as the major planning partners.
- The network of tracks is viewed as an important attraction for tourism as well as important for local resident use.
- Submissions supported multi day tramping options on a track networks with loop options
- Additional tracks were considered appropriate where there is a deficiency of a particular opportunity, and for enhancing Te Araroa national trail and links across conservancy boundaries.
- Submissions support front country Short Walks close to residential area for ease of access by locals
- Some submissions expressed criticism at the current lack of track and hut maintenance
- There are limited opportunities or offers for 'maintain by community' tracks, although interest was expressed by community groups to be involved in contracts for track maintenance
- Interest has been expressed in tracks for mountain bikes as well as roads and or tracks for off highway vehicles / four wheel drive vehicles / quads and motorcycles



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Te Papa Atawhai

- Collectively, various supporters and groups want to see access to almost all of the Coromandel east coast by way of coastal walkway and track.
- There is an expressed need for information / interpretation including signage of tracks to be improved
- Sea kayaking is well established on the northern Coromandel coast and the users are appreciative of the existing camping sites. There is an expressed need for more designated sites (similar to freedom camping) to expand their recreation into multi day trips and or overnight trips for locally based kayakers.
- Some people raised concerns that search and rescue operations would take longer with resultant risks of loss of life and greater difficulties for the rescue teams if there were to be a reduction in the total number of huts and tracks.
- Extensive use is made by members of the NZ Motor Home Association of campgrounds on conservation lands throughout New Zealand. Currently visitor safety at road ends and remote amenity areas is an issue with visitor's vehicles and personal belongings at risk of theft and damage.

Decisions

The range of recreation opportunities in the Waikato is broadened by the decisions made as an outcome of this consultation process.

Hauraki Area

Due to strong local interest and support, three tramping tracks and one walking track proposed for closure will now be retained to the required standard. Two new huts, two basic camp sites /shelters, three new coastal walking tracks and an upgrade of Hoffman's pool car park will all contribute to the core facility network. Improvements will occur at key amenity areas; Waitaia picnic site, Kauaeranga road end, Tararu car parks and Maratoto road end car park. Proposals to phase out three tramping tracks will proceed.

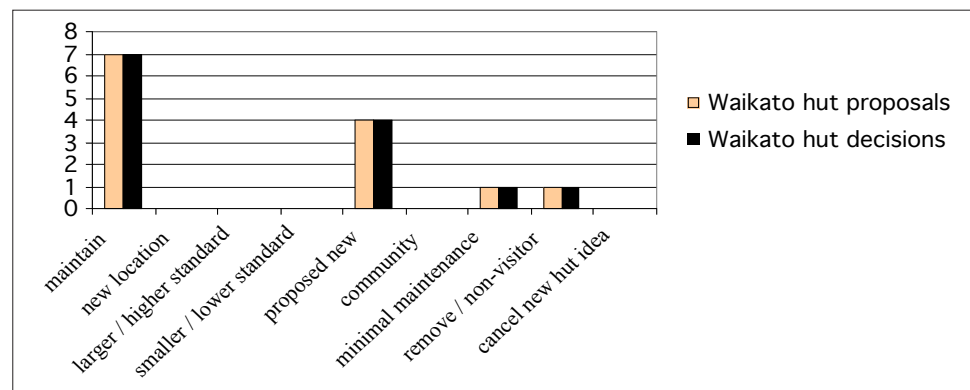
Maintain by community options for some tracks need to be further explored.

Maniapoto Area

The proposals for two new huts, two new walking tracks and one new tramping track will proceed. Two dilapidated huts will be removed. All proposals for roads to for mountain bike or off-road vehicles will proceed.

Waikato Area

Three proposed new car parks linked to new short walks in the Whangamarino wetlands and three new short walks in the Whangamarino Wetland will be developed, as will the proposed car park on the Firth of Thames. One tramping track and one road will be phased out.



Waikato Conservancy will manage 726km of track in the future, 57km 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.

