

Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board

7 September 2023

Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take [2]

Department: Community Services

Title | Taitara : Mount Iron Recreation Reserve Waka Kotahi Shared Pathway

Purpose of the Report | Te Take mō te Pūroko

The purpose of this report is to recommend constructing a new shared pathway in the Mount Iron Recreation Reserve.

Recommendation | Kā Tūtohuka

That Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board:

1. **Note** the contents of this report;
2. **Approve** the Waka Kotahi Shared Pathway within the Mount Iron Recreation Reserve adjacent to the Wānaka Luggate Highway; and
3. **Delegate** to Council Officers the ability to make final detailed design decisions.

Prepared by:



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Title: Senior Parks Advisor
15 August 2023

Reviewed and Authorised by:



Name: Ken Bailey
Title: Community Services General Manager
16 August 2023

Context | Horopaki

1. Waka Kotahi has identified the opportunity to build a shared pathway to better connect Wānaka town to Three Parks. Waka Kotahi is proposing to fund and build the shared pathway.
2. The proposed site for the path is within the Mount Iron Reserve which is classified as Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977. This follows the acquisition of part of Mount Iron and Little Mount Iron by Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) in May 2023.
3. The process to develop a Reserve Management Plan (RMP) for the Mount Iron Recreation Reserve has begun and will be completed in 2024. The RMP will set out how Council intends to provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection, and preservation of the reserve. The community's wishes on how the reserve is to be managed will be provided through extensive consultation. The RMP is not yet progressed enough to provide guidance on this decision.
4. This decision is coming to the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board as the group with the delegated authority to make decisions on footpaths, walkways and tracks within the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Ward.

Analysis and Advice | Tatāritaka me kā Tohutohu

5. The new shared pathway is proposed to run from the existing pedestrian and cycling facilities at the Anderson Road roundabout to Three Parks roundabout and will provide a connection to the new underpass at the Three Parks roundabout (Attachment A). The proposed route is further away from the highway than was initially planned as the original route would have required the removal of multiple trees. The proposed route will cross QLDC Recreation Reserve land and a small area of Department of Conservation (DOC) land that is being vested to QLDC.
6. Waka Kotahi is proposing to fund and build the pathway through their Low Cost Low Risk Programme. QLDC will maintain the shared pathway.
7. The shared pathway is intended to be used by pedestrians, cyclists, mobility devices and wheeled recreational devices and will be 3 metres wide. The type of surface will be confirmed as the design is progressed.
8. A decision on the shared pathway is required ahead of the Mount Iron RMP being completed as waiting will mean the funding and subsequent community benefit of the shared pathway may be delayed or lost.
9. This report identifies and assesses the following reasonably practicable options for assessing the matter as required by section 77 of the Local Government Act 2002.

10. Option 1 Approve the Mount Iron Waka Kotahi Shared Pathway

Advantages:

- Will provide more direct and safer offroad pedestrian and cycling access between Anderson Road and Three Parks.
- Likely to encourage more walking and cycling in line with QLDC's Climate and Biodiversity Action Plan goals by providing an additional shared pathway connection.
- The pathway will be funded and built by Waka Kotahi.

Disadvantages:

- Ongoing pathway maintenance costs to QLDC.
- Involves changes in the Mount Iron Recreation Reserve ahead of wider community engagement and development of the RMP.

11. Option 2 Do not approve the Mount Iron Waka Kotahi Shared Pathway

Advantages:

- No costs to QLDC.
- A change in the Mount Iron Recreation Reserve is not approved ahead of wider community engagement and the RMP being completed.

Disadvantages:

- Will not deliver opportunity for community benefit and achieving climate and biodiversity goals.
- Loss of the funding available from Waka Kotahi to build the shared pathway.

12. This report recommends **Option 1** for addressing the matter because there will be significant community benefit and the path will be funded and built by Waka Kotahi. If Option 1 is agreed, an indicative start date for construction would be before Christmas 2023.

Consultation Process | Hātepe Matapaki

Significance and Engagement | Te Whakamahi I kā Whakaaro Hiraka

13. This matter is of low significance, as determined by reference to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy because the shared pathway will provide an additional community asset at

little cost to end users and it aligns with existing policy, including aligning with the goals of QLDCs Climate Action Plan.

14. The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter are the residents/ratepayers of the Wānaka-Upper Clutha community, visitors to Wānaka, users of the Mount Iron Recreation Reserve and local residents who travel between Anderson Road and Three Parks.

15. The Council has not yet undertaken community consultation on this matter.

Māori Consultation | Iwi Rūnaka

16. The Council has not undertaken specific iwi consultation on this matter.

Risk and Mitigations | Kā Raru Tūpono me kā Whakamaurutaka

17. This matter relates to the Community & Wellbeing risk category. It is associated with RISK00009 ineffective management of community assets within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed as having a high inherent risk rating.

18. The approval of the recommended option will support the Council by allowing the risk to be maintained at its current level. This shall be achieved by the addition of a new asset for community wellbeing within the reserve.

Financial Implications | Kā Riteka ā-Pūtea

19. The cost of maintaining the pathway will come from existing budgets and will be partly subsidised by Waka Kotahi, however budgets will need to increase in the long term to account for increased areas for maintenance.

Council Effects and Views | Kā Whakaaweawe me kā Tirohaka a te Kaunihera

20. The following Council policies, strategies and bylaws were considered:

- a. The Reserves Act 1977
- b. Parks and Open Spaces Policy 2021
- c. Climate and Biodiversity Plan 2022-2025
- d. Significance and Engagement Policy 2021

21. The recommended option is consistent with the principles set out in the named policies above.

22. This matter is not included as a specific item in the Ten Year Plan/Annual Plan.

Local Government Act 2002 Purpose Provisions | Te Whakatureture 2002 o te Kāwanataka ā-Kiaka

23. Section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 states the purpose of local government is (a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and (b) to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future. As such, the recommendation in this report is appropriate and within the ambit of Section 10 of the Act.

24. The recommended option:

- Can be implemented through current funding under the Long Term Plan and Annual Plan;
- Is consistent with the Council's plans and policies; and
- Would not significantly alter the intended level of service provision for any significant activity undertaken by or on behalf of the Council or transfer the ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from the Council.

Attachments | Kā Tāpirihaka

A	Map of Proposed Mount Iron Recreation Reserve Waka Kotahi Shared Pathway
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