

Report No:	RESC11-08-10
File No:	R858-1
Date:	20 July 2011
<i>Information Only – no decision required</i>	

REPORT SUMMARY

Report to: Engineering Services Committee
Meeting Date: 4 August 2011
Report Author: Dugald Ley – Development Engineer
Subject: **Tasman Cycle Trail Update**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an update on progress with the Tasman Cycle Trail.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the report be received.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

THAT the Engineering Services Committee receives the Tasman Cycle Trail Update Report RESC11-08-10.

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Engineering Services Committee of progress with Stage 1 construction.

2. Background

- 2.1 The opening of the State Highway 6 Richmond Deviation cycleway connection has seen a marked increase in numbers of cyclists and pedestrians in this area. Comments about this new asset have been very favourable.
- 2.2 It has also been noticed that the correct procedure to traverse Queen Street in the vicinity of Stratford Street/Gladstone Road is to use the pedestrian phase of the traffic lights at the intersection of Queen Street and Gladstone Road.
- 2.3 Discussions between the Transportation Manager and the New Zealand Transport Agency to improve this crossing point are continuing.
- 2.4 Work on the two kilometre Pugh Road off-road cycleway has commenced with the successful contractor, Oldfields.
- 2.5 The tender for the section from State Highway 60 (overbridge) to Ranzau Road has been advertised with the work likely to be completed by October 2011.
- 2.6 Work at Rabbit Island has largely been completed. The remaining section to Redwood Road is likely to be completed within the next two months.



New trail at Rabbit Island – partial construction



Rabbit Island Frontage – Completed trail

3. Resource Consents

- 3.1 The resource consent for various works of trail construction around the coast from the ASB Aquatic Centre to Landsdown Road was advertised on 16 July 2011 and submissions close on 12 August 2011.
- 3.2 Five meetings have been held with the Waimea Inlet Forum sub-group chaired by Cr Ensor. These meetings have been beneficial to appreciate all the issues especially in the locations of Neiman Creek, Pearl Creek and the western end of Rabbit Island.
- 3.3 The group now has a consensus view that will allow the cycle trail to traverse areas near bird habitat and of environmental significance.
- 3.4 The above is subject to a range of features that will be implemented by various parties which include signage, screening, landscaping, paddocks to revert to estuarine habitat and discouraging vehicle access.
- 3.5 The Wairoa Bridge resource consent has now been approved and reflects the in-depth detail and consultation carried out by the Cycle Trails Trust.
- 3.6 A principal sponsor of the bridge has yet to be found. Bridge design will now be confirmed and consents sought for the work to be completed in January 2012.
- 3.7 The highlight for visitors and commuters at that time will be the completion of the off-road trail from Richmond to Brightwater and will be worthy of a celebration!

4. Ferry Crossing (Bridge) – Mapua to Rabbit Island (Moturoa)

- 4.1 As can be seen in the photos below, the ferry is near completion.



Ferry under construction



Paul and John, proud owners inside the ferry

- 4.2 Sunday 2 October 2011 has been set aside for the official launch and naming of the ferry and it will operate on the day with any customers being asked to donate a gold coin.
- 4.3 Initially, it is likely that the ferry will operate every two hours with four to five runs a day during summer. The ferry will also operate cruises on the estuary to supplement its operations.

5. NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 By December 2012 stage one of the trail (Richmond to Mapua and Richmond to Wakefield) will be constructed. This will complete 44.2 kilometres of the total 175 kilometre loop trail.
- 5.2 Funding for the next two stages will be part of the Ten Year Plan process. When the previous LTCCP was implemented in 2006 the Tasman Loop Trail was not envisaged.
- 5.3 However funding was attributed to parts of the trail leading to Wakefield and some funding was allocated to parts of the trail up until the 2018-2019 financial year.
- 5.4 It is proposed as part of the Ten Year Plan process to move that funding proposed for years 2012 to 2018 into years 2013 to 2016.
- 5.5 There is also a need to allocate an additional \$1.25 million to complete this project and this will be put forward as part of the Ten Year Plan process.

5.6 A further report will be submitted to the committee requesting a mandate to complete the final stages 2 and 3 of the trail in the near future.

5.7 The recent Council Communitrak™ survey produced some interesting results:

- 88% of survey participants are very/fairly satisfied with walkways and cycleways;
- 32% of survey participants would like more money spent on walkways and cycleways; and
- 11% of survey participants mention “the cycleway” when asked what action or decision of Council comes to mind.

6. BYLAW

6.1 A separate report on the proposed Tasman Loop Trail Bylaw is tabled today. Once this bylaw is enacted it will allow control of activities on the loop trail and prevent nuisance to other users. It will allow some cost recovery to assist in maintenance of the trail.

7. BRANDING

7.1 The Nelson Cycle Trails Trust (NCTT) has advised that they have been investigating branding for both the overall regional cycling brand and also names for both the Tasman Loop Trail and the Dun Mountain Trail. The recommended brands have been approved by the two Mayors.

7.2 The results are:

Regional Brand – Heart of Biking (note Marlborough were reluctant to participate) portrayed below



The Dun Mountain Trail is now the Dun Mountain Challenge portrayed below:



The Tasman Loop Trail is now the Great Taste Trail portrayed below:



7.3 The Nelson-Tasman Cycles Trails Trust and Council are finalising the agreement for the branding of the Great Taste Trail and signage/branding of the Trail will soon appear on completed sections.

8. SUMMARY

8.1 The construction phase of the Great Taste Trail is stepping up a gear with likely completion of the Richmond to Brightwater section by January 2012. The Rabbit Island pathways will be completed in time for the maiden launch of the ferry on 2 October 2011. It is hoped that by early 2012 consent will have been gained for the coastal route and also the Lower Queen Street bridge.

8. RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received.

9. DRAFT RESOLUTION

THAT the Engineering Services Committee receives the Tasman District Council Cycle Trail Report RESC11-08-10.