

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chair and Members, Engineering Services Committee

FROM: Dugald Ley, Development Engineer

REFERENCE: R858-1

SUBJECT: **Tasman Cycle Trail Update – RESC-11-03-08-INF**
Report prepared for meeting of 17 March 2011

1 PURPOSE

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

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Councillors will be aware that the Nelson Cycle Trails Trust (The Trust) on behalf of Council secured \$2.14 million of central government funding for a cycle trail in Tasman with the first stage at least being Richmond to Mapua and Richmond to Wakefield.
- 2.2 The Trust is in the process of applying for further funding which may extend the planned first stage past Mapua.
- 2.3 The Trust has employed an Executive Officer (Fiona Newey) whose main task is to promote and market cycling in the Top of the South.
- 2.4 The Trust and Tasman District Council have a draft marketing agreement which is presently under discussion.
- 2.5 The Trust has secured agreement with PF Olsen & Co and Council's Parks & Reserves Department for access through the Rabbit Island Reserve.
- 2.6 Various other landowners/occupiers have been consulted with and it is hoped that agreements will be completed in the very near future.

3 RICHMOND TO WAKEFIELD SECTION

- 3.1 The Richmond Deviation project is nearing completion and an official opening is programmed for April.
- 3.2 An application has been made to the New Zealand Transport Agency for access along the Railway Reserve from state highway 60 to Ranzau Road (we await their response).

- 3.3 Ranzau Road footpath widening has been completed and is already in use by commuters and Ranzau schoolchildren and church patrons.
- 3.4 The design plans for Pugh Road will shortly be submitted to Council.
- 3.5 We have had positive discussions with the Brightwater Domain Committee although alignment of the cycle trail in this area is yet to be finalised.

4 COASTAL SECTION

- 4.1 Discussions with landowners along Lower Queen Street are progressing.
- 4.2 Various interests groups including Forest & Bird, the Ornithological Society, Waimea Estuary Group met on 4 March 2011 to air any concerns they have with the proposed cycle trail. A further meeting is scheduled for 11 March 2011 to ensure any issues can be resolved.
- 4.3 The bird breeding area at the end of the Cotterell Road/Pearl Creek area is well known to the Council and Cycle Trust members.
- 4.4 Alternative alignments have been tested and the preferred alignment is that previously consulted on by Council, ie the June 2005 Tasman District Council Regional Cycle and Walking Strategy map “Waimea Cyclist and Pedestrian Network” and more recently in the “Waimea River Park Management Plan”, August 2010. This plan shows that Cotterell Road will be an entrance to this recreation area for “Walkway and Cycleway” users.
- 4.5 Resource consents for the two bridges are being prepared with likely submission to Council within the next few months (see photos below of recent examples constructed on the West Coast).





5 ISSUES

5.1 Future maintenance of trail

At present parts of the existing trail are being maintained by Council and some community groups. The existing trails are beside the Jubilee Park (old Railway Reserve), between Beach Road and Headingly Lane along the coast, through various parts of Motueka and along the golf course coastline.

5.2 It is the Trusts view that future maintenance be shared by three groups:

- Tasman District Council will fund a similar amount per year as exists in current cycleway/walkway maintenance budgets;
- The Trust funds amounts dictated by sales of Trail Passports, ie as per the Otago Central Rail Trail Trust where passports cost \$10 with \$8 being a donation for ongoing development and enhancement of the Rail Trail experience under the auspices of the Otago Central Rail Trail Trust.
- Community groups who will “adopt” a section of the Trail. This is evident in the area of the Chaytor Track and Motueka estuary area.

5.3 However it is extremely important that the trail “standard” be maintained so that the brand “Nga Haerenga – the New Zealand National Cycle Trail” is retained.

6 DOGS/HORSES ON THE TRAIL

- 6.1 It is evident that the existing trail has many uses and these vary depending on the proximity to urban areas. On the Otago Central Rail Trail there are pedestrians, cyclists, horses and dog walkers along the section from Clyde to Alexandra and these “users” coexist reasonably well. In more remote areas cyclists dominate the trail. Where the trail is negotiated over private land the landowners may restrict the use of the trail to cyclists only.
- 6.2 It is envisaged that in some areas such as Pearl Creek where endangered birds are nesting then use of the trail will be restricted and suitable screening and signage will be required.

7 FERRY CROSSING – MAPUA

- 7.1 As reported at the last meeting, the ferry is due to be completed within the next few months. The Trust has been in discussion with the operator and a contract for services will be agreed as the estuary crossing is a key link in the cycle trail network.

8 FORMER CROWN LAND – DISUSED RAILWAY – BELGROVE TO TAPAWERA, SPOONERS TUNNEL

- 8.1 Following an application early last year to acquire a lease or similar over this land parcel, Land Information New Zealand have advised that this land is now “on offer” to Maori as part of a Treaty of Waitangi settlement and no agreement can be made with Council. This may delay the next stages of the trail to Tapawera until agreement can be reached.

9 SUMMARY

- 9.1 The Cycle Trail construction programme is slightly behind schedule mainly due to negotiations with property owners and consultation with affected parties prior to lodging resource consents. However Stage 1 will be completed by the end of 2012 as originally scheduled.

10 RECOMMENDATION

- 10.1 THAT the Tasman Cycle Trail Report, RESC-11-03-08 be received by the Engineering Services Committee.**

Dugald Ley
Development Engineer