

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chair and Members, Engineering Services Committee

FROM: Dugald Ley, Development Engineer

REFERENCE: R858-1

DATE: 21 September 2010

SUBJECT: **Tasman Cycle Trail Update – RESC10-09-11**
Report prepared for meeting of 30 September 2010

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Engineering Services Committee on progress with the stage 1 construction of the Tasman Cycle Trail. Progress on this project will be reported to the Committee on a regular basis.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Tasman Cycle Trail project achieved another milestone on 20 August 2010 with the signing of the Funding agreement between the Ministry of Economic Development, Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council.
- 2.2 The agreement is subject to:
- Agreements for land access rights (cycleway) being put in place
 - A final programme of construction works
 - Development of a project management regime
 - Branding/Marketing of the trail
 - Budgets
 - Risk Analysis, and
 - Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (or similar document). Note – the Ministry of Economic Development has granted Council an extra week (until 8 October 2010) to complete this documentation.
- 2.3 The details above are being finalised with the Ministry of Economic Development so that we can satisfy their requirements for funding to be available.
- 2.4 The initial Memorandum of Understanding presented by the Trust to Council has been reviewed by Council's solicitors and their letter of opinion is attached. Solicitors and the Engineering Manager recommend that the appropriate document Council should enter into with the Trust is a "Contract for Consultancy Services". The document will replace the proposed Memorandum of Understanding. This is seen as appropriate because the project involves, in essence, construction works. The draft contract document will be reviewed by the Chief Executive and the Engineering Manager and submitted as a late confidential paper to the Engineering Services Committee.

2.5 Some of the issues that the Trust has dealt with so far are:

- Appointment of a Project Manager to oversee the Stage 1 construction programme.
- Appointment of a Resource Planner to peer-review and assist with resource consent applications – most are in the coastal marine area.
- Negotiation with property owners (where access is required over private land or where lessees have rights over Council-owned land). Some landowner agreements with Council may take time to resolve. This may require alternate/temporary alignments to be used until permanent landowner agreements are in place.
- Discussions with environmental groups.

2.6 This has been a challenging phase for the Trust. Most of the Trust members are volunteers and their persistence and commitment to this project on behalf of Council has in my view been outstanding.

3 MARKETING AND BRANDING

3.1 As previously reported the Trust has secured domain names for a future website and a page on the new Council website will link to the Trust's site.

3.2 The Trust is also working to gain funding for marketing purposes. This funding will be used to develop the marketing programme and also protocols for use of the trail. The Trust has submitted funding applications to the Canterbury Community Trust, NZ Lottery Grants Board and other funding streams.

3.3 As previously mentioned it is planned that the trail will ultimately have designation/heritage status which will be used to reinforce the purposes of the trail.

3.4 One of the protocols to be developed will focus on "expected behaviour" on the trail. The use of bells or warning procedures (as suggested committee members) will be included. These "expected behaviours" will be included on the website and in the trail "passport". Protocols will also include recommendations for appropriate clothing, carrying torches (for tunnels), food and water and care during summer fire restrictions etc.

4 NEXT STEPS

4.1 Construction designs are well underway. Physical works are expected to start in areas where resource consents are not likely to be required, e.g. the Railway Reserve (State Highway 60 to Ranzau Road).

4.2 The New Zealand Transport Agency has very recently approved capital funding to complete the pedestrian/cycleway along the State Highway 6 Richmond Deviation. Council has also been advised that NZTA support the project in principle. NZTA will prepare a draft Licence to Occupy Agreement (LTO) to enable the Cycle Trail to utilise the Hope Bypass route until such time as it is required for State Highway

purposes. The NZTA will also prepare a Memorandum of Understanding (or similar agreement) to accompany the LTO to ensure that interests of the NZTA and TDC are recorded and communicated.

- 4.3 I understand that construction of the ferry (for the service from Mapua to Rabbit Island) has started and should be completed within six months.
- 4.4 Many enquiries have been received from potential supporting partners, Bed & Breakfast accommodation, cycle suppliers etc to gauge construction timeframes and cycleway locations.
- 4.5 Of interest is the potential visit/submission to Council (Community Services Committee) on the 18 November from Mr and Mrs Duncan, owners of the Wedderburn farm (note, they have backpacker accommodation and upmarket accommodation on the trail (photo attached)). Mr and Mrs Duncan had previously been negative to "Trails" but are now staunch supporters of the Central Otago Rail Trail. They intend to update the committee on how the first 5-6 years of business growth developed for them.

5 SUMMARY

- 5.1 Progress is on schedule except for slight delays in getting agreement with one or two landowners. I will provide a verbal update at the meeting on this.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 **THAT the Tasman Cycle Trail Update Report (RESC10-09-11) be received by the Engineering Services Committee.**

Dugald Ley
Development Engineer