



Heaphy Track Repair Update

Newsletter No. 1 – 03 March 2022

Kia ora koutou

We're starting this regular newsletter to update the Karamea and Collingwood communities, and other affected individuals, businesses and groups, about DOC's recovery work following the February storm damage on the Heaphy track. The closure of the Heaphy Track as a through walk is already having a major impact and we want to assure you that we are working as hard as we can to get the full track open again.

Over the past month DOC staff assessed all structural damage on the Heaphy Track and found that, while the Gunner Bridge can be repaired, the Heaphy and Pitt Creek bridges will need to be removed and replaced.

Salvage starts this week

Late this week, salvage will begin on the Heaphy Bridge. This is the first stage of work in fixing the damage to bridges caused by the February storms and must be done before any new works can start. Edifice Structures will undertake the salvage of the Heaphy Bridge. They will gather any parts which can be used for a new bridge and clear the site of material which cannot be reused. This work is likely to take about seven days depending on weather.

Other Work

DOC staff are working with NIWA to get a full picture of the rainfall data and river flows in the Heaphy catchment. With the increasing frequency of flooding, this information is crucial to decisions about a replacement bridge over the Heaphy River, such as its location and height.

In the meantime, the track is open from Kohaihai to Heaphy Hut and from Brown Hut to Mackay Hut for in/out tramps. These options have been included in DOC's autumn promotional work for trampers and mountainbikers. The Heaphy Track is a special place with some of the most varied and magnificent scenery in New Zealand. We want to do as much as we can to encourage people to get out on the track at either end. To support this, we're putting together an article highlighting all the options the Karamea and Collingwood ends of the track offer. This will be distributed to tramping networks, recreational publications and others.

We've developed as wide a distribution list as we could for this newsletter. Feel free to share it with anyone else you think may be interested. Anyone who wants to be added, or removed, should email jechandler@doc.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi,

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