

Whare Kaupapa Atawhai/  
Conservation House  
18 Manners Street  
Wellington 6011  
doc.govt.nz

Ref: OIAD-4951

Tēnā koe

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 24 February 2025, in which you asked for some information on the Great Walks:

- *how much DOC spends seasonally on maintenance and repairs*
- *how much income New Zealand Great Walks generate seasonally*
- *where Great Walk income is being spent or going.*

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982.

Here are some points to help interpret the information provided:

- the costs and revenues are exclusive of GST
- the Paparoa Track opened in 2019/20
- Lake Waikaremoana Track is not included because it is operated by Te Uru Taumatua (not by the Department)
- Hump Ridge is not included as it opened in October 2024 and is operated by the Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track Charitable Trust (not by the Department)
- the costs for 2022/23 and 2023/24 are the 2021/22 costs adjusted for inflation
- there are costs other than maintenance and repairs (Operating Expenditure) associated with operating a Great Walk:
  - these include matters such as asset depreciation, the Crown Capital Charge and service support costs (e.g. the booking system)
  - I have combined these other costs with the Operating Expenditure in another table (**Total Annual Costs**)
  - if you are going to compare income and costs, I suggest you use Total Annual Costs and not the Operational Expenditure
- the Great Walk season normally runs from after Labour weekend to the end of April; this is when the Department receives most of its revenue and incurs the greatest proportion of its costs
- the information covers the full financial year, which runs from 1 July to 30 June.

## 1. How much DOC spends seasonally on maintenance and repairs

The table below sets out the **Operational Expenditure** (hours and materials) each year per Great Walk. These costs largely include maintenance and repair costs.

Operational Expenditure (\$000)	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Whanganui Journey	387	412	505	412	515	520	541	573
Tongariro Northern Circuit	282	244	262	287	337	382	397	421
Abel Tasman Coast Track	589	718	679	660	614	573	596	632
Heaphy Track	585	637	1,156	849	1,002	531	552	585
Paparoa Track	4	83	210	389	642	534	555	589
Routeburn Track	443	503	534	410	419	401	417	442
Milford Track	486	597	554	480	535	508	528	560
Kepler Track	353	442	435	443	443	474	493	523
Rakiura Track	423	506	534	561	634	196	204	216
<b>Operational Expenditure</b>	<b>5,569</b>	<b>6,160</b>	<b>6,888</b>	<b>6,511</b>	<b>7,162</b>	<b>6,141</b>	<b>6,307</b>	<b>6,565</b>

The table below sets out the **Total Annual Costs** each year per Great Walk.

Total Cost (\$000)	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23*	2023/24
Whanganui Journey	609	581	687	561	679	685	726	755
Tongariro Northern Circuit	413	381	407	438	481	521	552	574
Abel Tasman Coast Track	940	1,147	1,196	1,139	1,096	1,063	1,127	1,172
Heaphy Track	1,036	1,118	1,715	1,443	1,619	1,632	1,730	1,799
Paparoa Track	5	116	343	986	1,353	1,234	1,308	1,360
Routeburn Track	834	900	1,049	1,135	873	858	909	946
Milford Track	886	1,019	997	974	1,620	1,191	1,262	1,313
Kepler Track	655	766	776	772	775	807	855	890
Rakiura Track	722	808	855	809	866	357	378	394
<b>Total cost</b>	<b>6,463</b>	<b>7,318</b>	<b>8,329</b>	<b>8,600</b>	<b>9,904</b>	<b>8,411</b>	<b>8,849</b>	<b>9,203</b>

## 2. How much income New Zealand Great Walks generate seasonally

The table below sets out the **income (revenue)** each year by Great Walk.

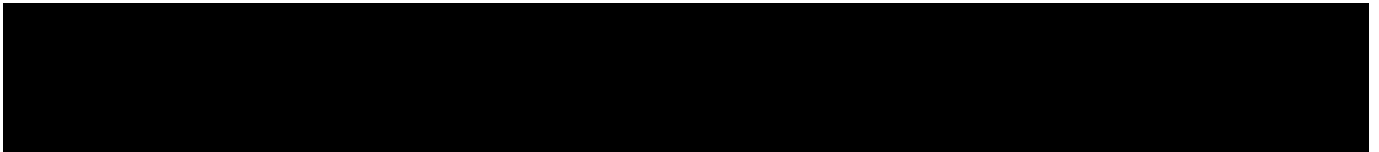
Revenue (\$000)	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Whanganui Journey	318	335	320	252	353	270	239	300
Tongariro Northern Circuit	364	415	407	327	313	265	419	523
Abel Tasman Coast Track	1,373	1,464	1,786	1,470	1,178	989	1,323	1,581
Heaphy Track	518	513	575	473	772	348	92	574
Paparoa Track				85	461	398	459	581

Revenue (\$000)	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Routeburn Track	1,264	1,419	1,973	1,112	816	953	1,369	1,435
Milford Track	1,223	1,454	2,070	1,107	1,038	1,340	1,498	1,645
Kepler Track	1,272	1,432	2,229	1,764	1,277	1,067	1,778	1,937
Rakiura Track	156	181	182	168	209	252	343	368
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>6,808</b>	<b>7,613</b>	<b>9,817</b>	<b>7,065</b>	<b>6,898</b>	<b>5,956</b>	<b>7,521</b>	<b>8,943</b>

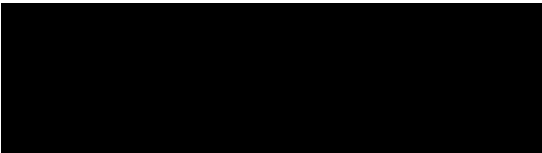
### 3. where Great Walk income is being spent or going.

The Operational Expenditure table provides an indication of where the income is being spent. If the income from a Great Walk exceeds its costs, the surplus income generally helps cover the costs of the walks whose costs exceed their revenues.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Department's website.



Nāku noa, nā



Catherine Wilson  
 Director, Heritage and Visitors  
 Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*