

OIA-17-E-391: DOCCM-3159358



Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, dated 28 August 2017. You requested the following:

1. a copy of the AEE (Assessment of Environmental Effects) regarding the proposed cycleway /Great Walk through Paparoa National Park;
2. Advice on DOC's (Director-General of Conservation) position on the proposed road through Kahurangi National Park (from Tadmor area to the West Coast near Little Wanganui);
3. Advice on any progress of the (desirable) transfer of the Mokihinui river and catchment into Kahurangi National Park.

Our responses are listed below:

1. A copy of the AEE.

The following document falls within the scope of your request and because of the size of the document it will be made available to you via our website. This letter including a copy of the AEE (with your personal details removed) will be published on the Department of Conservation website <http://www.doc.govt.nz/oia-responses>:

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	18 November 2016	Pike 29 Track: RMA Application to West Coast Regional Council for Riverbed Land Use Consent and Discharge Permits	Released in full

Included in it is a "Freshwater Ecological Assessment for the Proposed Pike29Great Walk". Wildland Consultants Limited has the copyright on that document. Your attention is drawn to section 48(2) of the Official Information Act which states, amongst other things:

"The making available of, or the giving of access to, any official information in consequence of a request made under this Act shall not be taken, for the purposes of the law relating to ... infringement of copyright, to constitute an authorisation or approval of the publication of the document or of its contents by the person to whom the information is made available or the access is given."

I would also like to provide you with some background context. The proposed Pike 29 Memorial Great Walk (to be known as the Paparoa Track) has been an initiative of the Pike River Families working closely with Government. The proposal has three themes:

- First, as a living memorial for the families and broader community;
- Secondly, for the track and associated visitor infrastructure to give enduring benefits to the communities surrounding the Paparoa National Park and the recent Pike River catchment addition. These are social and economic benefits in terms of new jobs and more visitors to the region to enjoy what it has to offer;
- Thirdly, to provide a great opportunity for more New Zealanders and other visitors to gain access to and enjoy this section of the Paparoa National Park, which to date has been very limited to a small sector of hardy trampers.

2. DOC's (Director General of Conservation) position on the proposed road through Kahurangi National Park (from Tadmor area to the West Coast near Little Wanganui).

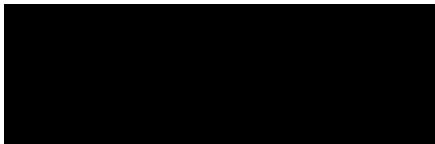
The Department does not have a position on the proposed road at this stage. There has been no formal approach to the Department regarding the proposal. The primary government department associated with the proposal is the New Zealand Transport Agency.

3. Any progress of the (desirable) transfer of the Mokihiui river and catchment into Kahurangi National Park.

The addition of the Mokihiui Forks Ecological Area and a large proportion of the Lyell Range-Radiant Range conservation area (approximately 66,400 hectares) is being processed under section 7 of the National Parks Act 1980. A survey of the land is necessary before it can be added to the Park, and this work is proceeding as quickly as possible.

If you wish to discuss this with the Department, please contact Suvi van Smit by email svansmit@doc.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Davies
Director, Operations
Western South Island
for Director-General