

Hauraki Plains Trail Cycleway

The Hauraki Plains Trail has taken a step (or peddle) to becoming a reality with the recent approval by the Ministry of Tourism of the funding towards the feasibility assessment.

The Hauraki Plains Trail was identified as one of the National Cycleway Quick Start projects in July.

The New Zealand Cycleway Project

The New Zealand Cycleway concept emerged from the Job Summit (February 2009) as a "Near Term and High Priority" idea. It is proposed as a means to stimulate jobs in the short term, while creating the best possible environment for businesses to prosper and provide long term economic benefits. The Great Rides will be based around New Zealand's iconic attractions and make use of infrastructure that already exists.

Objectives

The main objectives of the project are:

- **To create jobs** through design, construction and maintenance of the cycle network
- **To create a high quality tourism asset** that will enhance New Zealand's competitiveness as a tourism destination
- **To provide ongoing employment** and economic development opportunities for regional economies
- **To maximise the range of complementary benefits** that the cycle network provides to a wide range
(sourced from: *New Zealand Cycleway – Market Research Report, September 2009*)

Numerous Regional and local Councils submitted proposals for cycleways in their areas. From this 7 "quick starts" were chosen. The Hauraki Plains Trail Cycleway was one of those chosen.

To look at what this means to us a series of questions and answers have been compiled.

1. What is the Hauraki Plains Trail Cycleway?

The Hauraki Plains Trail Cycleway is a proposed cycleway that is intended to ultimately extend from Kaiaua – Thames – Paeroa – Waihi and goes through 3 District Councils, Franklin, Thames-Coromandel and Hauraki.

The route can be broken into 3 distinct sections, showcasing a number of tourist attractions

- **Kaiaua to Thames** – this generally is proposed to follow the stopbanks / foreshore including its Seabird Coast, taking in world renowned heritage sites, highlighting the Plains and the history of Thames and Grahamstown.
- **Thames to Paeroa** – this will follow the old rail route while enjoying the beauty of the Coromandel Range and visiting the ubiquitous L&P Bottle of Antique Town - Paeroa.
- **Paeroa to Waihi** – this will take riders through the Karangahake gorge to Waihi via a mixture of rail corridors, existing walkways and possibly train, enjoying breathtaking views, the opportunity for tramps and visiting historic gold mining attractions in Waihi.



photo courtesy of Opus Consultants

2. Why does Council have to do a feasibility study?

A feasibility study helps in decision making. The feasibility study will give vital information as to the benefits, problems, costs (construction and ongoing maintenance), etc of the cycleway. From this information, a decision can be made as to the viability of the proposed cycleway and if it is viable, the shape, form and implications of it. Basically it lets us know if we have a starter or non-starter.

3. Who is to fund the feasibility study and construction?

The Ministry of Tourism is funding the feasibility study. The study will identify the costs of construction, ongoing maintenance and operational costs. The Ministry of Tourism has allocated contestable funds for the construction of the cycleway.



photo courtesy of Opus Consultants

4. What will it look like?

The cycleway will generally be a 2.5m wide track surfaced with metal. Its grades will be flat to gentle inclines, it will be fenced where it is adjacent to privately owned land. Streams and canals will be bridged and others will be crossed making use of existing structures in the vicinity of the crossing - possibly requiring a short detour. Regular sheltered rest areas and toilet facilities will be provided for the cyclists. Special attention will be given to road crossings and to sections where the cycleway will be in a shared environment situation or be adjacent to a road. Viewpoints will also be provided for at locations that have particularly spectacular views or are of interest.

5. When will construction start?

Once the feasibility report has been prepared and the viability of the project confirmed it is anticipated that construction will start immediately, subject to appropriate funding being obtained. First and foremost the project has to be feasible – if it is not then it will not happen.

6. Will this affect the existing walkways through the Karangahake Gorge?

The proposed route will share the walkway from Karangahake to Waikino. It will use the tunnel route as the alternative is not safe for cycling. The route will be designed so that pedestrians and cyclists will be able to use the route at the same time.

7. Will local people and companies be used to build the cycleway if it goes ahead?

The governments support for the cycleways stems from the Jobs Summit. Its intention is to stimulate the local economy. Thus, wherever possible, use will be made of local people and companies. This will also give a sense of "ownership" of the trail to the community.

8. If I am affected by the proposed route, will someone come and see me and if so when?

Yes – all affected parties will be consulted once the final route has been determined to discuss any possible implications and to find a solution that is satisfactory to you. This consultation will take place sometime between November and January. If you feel that you have not been contacted or want to make sure that you are contacted, please e-mail the Team at the address given below.

9. Who will operate or give licences for the use of the Cycleway?

Part of the feasibility assessment is to look at the options for the management and operation of the cycleway. For the cycleway to be economically sustainable it is important that local businesses are involved with providing bike hire, guided tours, accommodation, meals etc.

We want to hear your views on the cycleway. You can e-mail them to the Team at: cycleway@hauraki-dc.govt.nz

More information is also available from : <http://www.tourism.govt.nz/Our-Work/New-Zealand-Cycleway-Project/>

Elected Members Diary

Meetings for the week of: Wednesday 18th to Tuesday 24th November 2009:

- No scheduled meetings

Public Notice



Council and Committee Meetings

Pursuant to Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, public notice is hereby given that the following meetings will be held during the month of September 2009.

All meetings are to be held in the Council Chambers, William Street, Paeroa unless otherwise advised.

CONSULTATIVE WATER AND WASTE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 1st December 2009, 10.00am

HEARINGS COMMITTEE

Monday, 7 December 2009, 9.00am (if required)

Monday, 21 December 2009, 9.00am (if required)

WARD COMMITTEES

Tuesday 8 December 2009

Plains 9.00 am

Paeroa 12.30 pm

Waihi 2.30 pm

COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, 16 December 2009, 9.00am

EASTERN PLAINS DISTRICT DRAINAGE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 22 December 2009, 10.30am

Council and Committee Meetings

Pursuant to Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, Public Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council was held on Friday 30 October 2009 for the purpose of considering the Application for Temporary Road Closure received from the **Thames Valley Car Club** to hold a hill climb sprint event on **Sunday 1st November 2009**.

Council resolved to approve the application.

Annual Report 2008/09

Pursuant to section 98 of the Local Government Act 2002, notice is given that the Hauraki District Council Annual Report 2008/09 and the Summary Annual Report 2008/09 have received an Unqualified Audit Opinion by Audit New Zealand and has been adopted by Hauraki District Council.

A copy of the Annual Report 2008/09 or Summary Annual Report 2008/09 can be viewed at the libraries and Council offices in Ngatea, Paeroa and Waihi, downloaded on the Council website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz or obtained by calling 07 862 8609

Waikino Public Meeting - District Plan Review

A public meeting is to be held at the **Victoria Hall, Waikino, Tuesday 17th November 2009 at 7.30pm** to discuss the early proposals of the District Plan Review applicable to Waikino.

L D Cavers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council