

Te Ara O Hei- "The Path of Hei" (Coromandel Walks) - Project Fact Sheet # 3

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is paying for the project?

The project has \$1M of lotteries funding and a further \$333,000 from Trust Waikato which goes a considerable way to off-set local and district rates. Due to the expected economic benefits to the district the major roading infrastructural improvements along Lees Road and the car park are being funded by the district rates. This funding approach is consistent with Council's road rating policy.

The expansion of the Hahei Village Entrance car park will be funded by local Mercury Bay Ratepayers but funding also includes a \$250,000 contribution from DOC.

A considerable benefit of this project is the revenue stream that will be generated from car parking charges. This means visitors to the area using the infrastructure will contribute directly towards paying for it, rather than the burden being placed fully on the ratepayer.

The business model, based on existing numbers and revenue generated from the hot water beach car park, indicates that return for the investment in upgrading the road and new car parking at Lees Road will be around 7 years. Revenue generated from the Lee's Road Car park will go towards maintenance of the walks and also go towards future tourist infrastructure where appropriate.

Any revenue generated from the Hahei Village Entrance Car Park will be ring-fenced and will be used for tourist related infrastructure in the Mercury Bay area.

Has a coastal route north of Hahei been considered?

- A. Investigating the feasibility and likelihood of a full coastal walk from the existing Cathedral Cove Walkway to the Purangi has been undertaken with members of the Hahei community, landowners, Coastal Walkways and Council staff.

From investigations it was concluded that a full coastal route would not be part of the initial Walks route with the main reasons being that the topography, cliff instability and higher levels of risk would mean more significant investigations and higher costs would likely be incurred. The Coastal Walkways Group is looking independently at an option of a coastal route from Cathedral Cove around the coast to the Stella Evered Reserve, which could later be incorporated as an alternative walking option in the future.

When will work on the route to the Blowhole start?

- A. Work on this section of the track will commence after consents have been issued and contracts have been awarded. However, the track will not be opened to the public until the car parks at the Village Entrance and Lees Rd have been completed. Our current work schedule (subject to resource consenting outcomes) indicates optimistically that work will start September 2017, with completion for December 2017.

Are toilet facilities and concessions for food and drink planned for on along the route track?

Toilets will be located at the Lees Road car park as well additional toilets along appropriate sections of the route.

Concessions for food and drink and the like will be approved on a case-by-case basis and in consultation with project partner organisations (TCDC, DOC and Iwi) as well as affected parties and the Community Board.

Will emergency services have access to places along the route?

One of the key access points proposed for emergency access will be from the proposed Lees Rd car park through to the Cathedral Cove track. This access point is currently owned by the Carters is already used by emergency services. The new proposed emergency access route off the proposed Lees Road car park will further facilitate access for emergency services.

How will dogs and bikes be managed?

Cyclists will be provided with an area to park their bikes near the new Lees Road car park if they wish to do the walk. The proposed walkway will initially accommodate walkers only and depending on its success the track is scalable to also accommodate cyclists in the future if appropriate. Dogs are not permitted within DOC reserves or on the walk.

How will rubbish be managed?

Council will manage solid waste through its existing contracts and additional signage along the route. An education campaign will also be undertaken to encourage visitors take rubbish with them. Rubbish bins will be provided at car parks but not on the tracks themselves.

It is envisaged that once the walkways have been build track volunteers will patrol the tracks on a regular basis and remove any rubbish that is left behind by inconsiderate walkers.

Will the Walk have disability access?

- In general the route itself won't be fully mobility friendly. However, there will be sections of the route that will provide better access for the disabled and families with prams etc.