

2 May 2019

LGOIMA No. 8140004409  
(Please quote this in any correspondence)

Tom Austen

Sent by email: [fyi-request-9998-5f24861e@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-9998-5f24861e@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Tom

**Local Government Official Information And Meetings Act 1987**  
**Closure considerations, Waitākere Ranges Regional Park**

I refer to your email received on 3 April 2019, requesting information on the advice provided to council when it was considering temporarily closing the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park

We have briefly outlined the background to the closure of the forested areas of the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park below, prior to referring to the advice provided to the council on this matter.

In early December 2017, Te Kawerau ā Maki placed a rāhui over the 'Waitākere forest itself (the 'ecological catchment') to quarantine or prevent human access. The rāhui is a closure by mana whenua based on tikanga. This conservation measure was taken in response to the presence of kauri dieback, and the obligation of kaitiakitanga, which is provided for under the Te Kawerau ā Maki Claims Settlement Act (2015), the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act (2008), and the Resource Management Act (1991).

In December 2017, in response to calls for Auckland Council to take more action to protect the kauri in the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park, the Environment and Community Committee resolved to increase the kauri dieback management approach in the Waitākere Ranges, including closing high and medium risk tracks, to support the principles of the rāhui, placed by Te Kawerau ā Maki on the ranges.

In February 2018, the committee also proposed to close the forested areas of the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park (with exceptions) by 1 May 2018, subject to working with Te Kawerau ā Maki, the Waitākere Ranges Local Board and targeted engagement with the local community and groups who use and benefit from the regional park.

In April 2018, the committee resolved to close the forested areas of the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park (with exceptions) on 1 May 2018, and directed staff to work with mana whenua on a prioritised list of tracks to be reopened once they have been upgraded.

In its consideration of the kauri dieback challenges in the Waitākere Ranges, council staff undertook to give effect to council's legal responsibilities, under the Local Government Act and others, including those with tangata whenua, communities and parks users.

The advice provided to council, including the options considered, are detailed in the three political reports considered by the Environment and Community Committee in December 2017, February 2018 and April 2018.

We have collated these agenda reports and minutes for you and they are available in the OneDrive folder at the link below –

<https://1drv.ms/f/s!Ar3AEgw1mNLnuiPjmVsDzZNpJDbm>

If you feel that we have not responded adequately to your request, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you have any further queries, please contact me on (09) 301 0101 quoting LGOIMA No. 8140004409

Yours sincerely



Joanne Kearney  
Privacy & LGOIMA Business Partner  
**Democracy Services**

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