

David Hayes

From: Rob Burn [r.burn@xtra.co.nz]
Sent: Sunday, 6 December 2015 10:01 p.m.
To: David Hayes; Leanne Flynn
Subject: Fw: QCT Progress report and update
Attachments: QCT Funding application requirements 2015.odt

Hello David and Leanne
A little more lite reading to keep you informed.....

Cheers
Rob

From: Rob Burn
Sent: Sunday, December 06, 2015 4:04 PM
To: QCT Administrator ; Caleb ; Emma Garrity ; Rob Burn ; Anne Brooker ; Greg Thomson ; Shayne And Tanya Jacks ; Gary Husband ; Natalie Sutton
Cc: Wilderness Guides Admin ; Smiths Farm Holiday Park
Subject: QCT Progress report and update

Hi All
Just a quick update before tomorrow's meeting, particularly on obtaining funding for DOC's work. I have had a long conversation with Robin Dunn from BikeWalk Marlborough re funding. MDC met last Tuesday and QCT has come out on the top of their list and are now right behind our efforts. Without being too optimistic I have attached what I see are the funding requirements from MDC and NZCT thru MBIE.

Friday, I also had a productive meeting with Juliet and Barry Maister from Picton Smart and Connected. I am also on the P S&M steering committee but not connected with the tourism side of things. Barry will be one of the Trustees for the new Capt Cook Anniversary Trust that is being formed along with one of the principal objectors to Juliet and Barbara's Funding application to MDC for co funding the Maintain the Great Rides Fund. Barry is very keen to bring in whatever help and Influence he can to help us achieve the funding.

Juliet is keen to be on the Funding Subcommittee to get the Applications in on time, basically we can rewrite the existing application and add what we now know. She has some good ideas on how we get around MDC wanting more 'Operator' financial input.

What will be helpful is that we decide as a Committee this is what we want to do and if so, endorse that with a unanimous motion for the Minutes. I would then call for a resolution to be passed.

[REDACTED]

As stated previously, the QCT Committee wants to market the QCT as a fabulous walking or biking experience for all and drive business to all members and continue to be a vital part of Marlborough Tourism.

Re your take on the 2005 DOC survey which I supplied to you, one of our Committee members has had a closer look at the survey in response to your last letter.

1327 Total Survey Respondents, the sample size is relatively small but it is all we have at the moment.

230 of which mention bikers specifically (One could read from this that the other 1097 have no problem with bikers)

112 of the 230 respondents had something negative to say, this is 8% of overall respondents. Of this number a known incident occurred which resulted in 8 negative responses from one incident. From what I read in the appendices some of the negative comments were from bikers themselves.

86 of the 230 respondents had something positive to say, this is 6 % of overall respondents. I believe people need more motivation for a positive response rather than a negative one.

12 of the 230 had something neutral to say. In my view neutral is more likely to be non-negative than non-positive.

From the overall conclusion of the report "Conflicts exist at low levels between track user types, especially hikers and bikers, but the diversity is perceived by many to add to the experience"

From appendix 1 preliminary survey User type bikers represent 19%

From appendix 2 Visitor movements multi day 22 surveyed 8 bikers 14 hikers, small sample size but bikers representing 36%

The member comments, "In my opinion none of this points to a large problem with bikers, but perhaps making bells mandatory could help with some of the perceived issues"

My personal take is that you can find negative things if you look for them, and positives as well. It is more difficult to get past the fact that we don't see any complaints from walkers showing up in the obvious places.

The Committee has been told of other surveys but without seeing them, and looking at the questions asked, the same with anecdotal ones, it is hard to comment further. Our Committee members are doing their best to talk to walkers and riders as they come off the Track. These impression would be more complete than at the start of their ride or bike.

If you need assistance to organise the meeting with Residents, members and anyone else interested, would you prefer the Committee to organise that at Furneaux Lodge soon before it gets too busy? This may be the easiest and most convenient venue for all to get to.

*Best regards
Rob Burn*

Unfortunately David Hayes from DOC is away on Leave this coming week but I have already asked him and Leann to gather the info required.

Let me know what you think and I will see you tomorrow.

*Cheers
Rob*

Queen Charlotte Track Funding

Timeline - Application into MDC via Bike Walk Marlborough by early January. Confirmation required that MDC will co fund the MBIE application. MBIE's 'Maintain the Great Rides' funding next round is February 2016.

What is required for MDC

The information that would be helpful to include within the QCT application is an indication that there is a high level of support and funding from commercial operators and stakeholders associated with the track. Robin Dunn suggested that there needs to be more money coming from Tourism Operators.

Counter argument is huge amount of publicity being generated for Marlborough thru the Great Rides that Destination Marlborough is leveraging on ...and DM was the instigator of becoming a Great Ride

Also DoC's involvement, funding and input now and ongoing.

Also that a 5 year development plan be provided for the track, that details the trusts vision and where they want it to be in 5 years' time, how they plan to achieve this and also ongoing maintenance. It needs to include the re-routing of all steep sections, using reduced grades (NZCT - Easier Design Grades) and moving onto public land where possible?

Also provide an update on community consultation, where concerns were raised regarding increased user numbers.

Also detailed design and costs associated with proposed upgrade of each section and a timeline for achieving each section and completion.

MDC are keen to see the QCT Committee look at alternate sources of funding as well. To this end I have met with Lion Foundation and they have given a strong indication they would be interested as they have already contributed towards Cycle Trails in Nelson.

What is required for MBIE.

Track Warrant of Fitness completed (Nat and Heather have now ridden the Track to complete the WOF) and the funding application reflecting the areas of concern to be improved as shown up by the WOF.

Co Funding application confirmation by MDC. Can the funding, if approved, be delayed to MBIE to July? Would help MDC.

From Mark Walters, MBIE

"My suggestion is that the Queen Charlotte Track gets all the key stakeholders together and has some good discussions on its direction and vision for the trail, including revisiting strategic, operational and marketing plan (s), backed up by an update on counter data, user profiles and trends.

DoC will have a key role, as well as MDC, the Land Owners and QCT Inc. DM and Tracey's team can help provide a tourism lens over everything, including some of the work that Tourism New Zealand

We estimate just under a 30% increase in users on the Great Rides over January 2015 compared

with 2014, using data across all Great Rides."

Can we leverage off Yealands Wines \$50K donation for signage?

MBIE have indicated that they can be flexible by adding the value of volunteer efforts to the co funder. Needs further clarification.

Could be value of Land owners improvements?

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

David Hayes

From: Wilderness Guides Admin [admin@wildernessguidesnz.com]
Sent: Monday, 7 December 2015 9:55 a.m.
To: Rob Burn; David Hayes; Leanne Flynn; Tracey Johnston; Barry Maister
Cc: Smiths Farm Holiday Park
Subject: RE: Letter to QCT committee

Importance: High

Hi Rob & all,

Thanks for sending this through and it makes interesting reading . . . my personal view, and one shared by Steve as owner/operators sending significant amount of walkers and bikers to the track, is that this issue may need airing with the wider QCT Inc membership now.

Whatever happens in Endeavour Inlet, for the positive or negative, affects the whole track and all operators associated with it. It also stands to affect Picton and the wider Marlborough and national tourism economy.

This is proving to be an issue much bigger than QCT Inc, as the marketing arm for the Queen Charlotte Track. This was a key reason for the establishment of the QCT Stakeholders Forum - to deal with track management issues such as this - and we would suggest that this issue needs referral now to this group made up of MDC, QCT Inc, QCTLC and DOC representatives.

Thank you so much Rob for your tireless work on this and I believe we must all get alongside QCT Inc and Rob to continue to work positively for an outcome that will benefit all users which - with careful management - could be a great outcome for residents in the inlet too.

Many thanks,

Juliet & Steve Gibbons

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W: www.wildernessguidesnz.com

From: Rob Burn [mailto:r.burn@xtra.co.nz]
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To: David Hayes <dhayes@doc.govt.nz>; Leanne Flynn <lflynn@doc.govt.nz>; Tracey Johnston <tjohnston@destinationmarlborough.com>; Barry Maister <barry@olympic.org.nz>
Cc: Wilderness Guides Admin <admin@wildernessguidesnz.com>; Smiths Farm Holiday Park <cbfaulls@xtra.co.nz>
Subject: Fw: Letter to QCT committee

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Just a heads up before the QCT Meeting this morning. Please see the attached letter from some of the Residents and small businesses along Endeavour Inlet and their meeting together, and the accompanying letter from Ralph Faulkner.

The Committee has also had a letter sent thru about the state of the Track "caused by the opening up to Mountain bikers" and by co incidence, echoes' the stated concerns of the residents.
I can see some obvious wrong conclusions they have come up with, but some fresh eyes and ideas on what is written would be helpful to our Committee as well.

I am a little concerned that some on the Committee may see this as becoming all too hard and not worth putting their valuable time and efforts into any longer.

Your thoughts are welcome
Cheers
Rob

From: annasorensen [mailto:annasorensen@doctors.org.uk]
Sent: Friday, 4 December 2015 6:23 p.m.
To: gctsecretary@gctrack.co.nz
Subject: Disappointed

I have just walked the qc track and am pretty shocked at the state of the path compared with a few years ago when I walked it.

The section down from the climb out of Ship Cove is like a muddy clay 4WD track and is an ugly start to the walk from that end. Thru out the clay surface is now slick and slippery..

The changes are largely a result of opening qc to bikers. Come on QC managers. You are ruining a walking track and piling lots of thru traffic that will not support the local community providers of accommodation. Cyclists go thru too fast to need the lovely local places on offer.

Hence more surface damage, less support for local tourism, and intimidated dissatisfied walkers.

QC has dropped from my list of 'fab NZ walks to recommend'.

A pity.

Anna Grace Sorensen
100 Logan Place
Thames 3500
New Zealand

From: OCT Administrator
Sent: Monday, December 07, 2015 8:31 AM
To: Anakwa 401 ; Anne Brooker ; Caleb ; Gary Husband ; Greg Thomson ; Natalie Sutton ; Rob Burn
Subject: FW: Letter to QCT committee

Hello,

Please see below from Bev and Ralph Faulkner regarding the letter sent from Rod Burgoyne.

Cheers,

Heather Barnes

QCT Inc. Marketing Administrator

qctsecretary@qctrack.co.nz
0204 043 7144

From: Ralph Faulkner [mailto:RGEFaulkner@xtra.co.nz]
Sent: Sunday, 6 December 2015 4:44 p.m.
To: 'QCT Administrator' <qctsecretary@qctrack.co.nz>
Subject: FW: Letter to QCT committee

To the Q C Committee

We have had the attached email sent to us, and we read that there has been a meeting of Endeavour Inlet accommodation providers, with apologies from three persons.

We feel it important to state we of Punga Cove Resort and Furneaux Lodge have not been invited to these meetings. The attachment implies that all interested parties are or could have been in attendance. It seems strange that a selective group from Endeavour Inlet speak for "Endeavour Inlet" when the two organisations hosting the majority of visitors are not included.

Kind regards
Ralph and Bev Faulkner

From: The Bluewater Lodge [mailto:enquiries@thebluewaterlodge.co.nz]
Sent: Sunday, December 6, 2015 1:17 PM
To: Ralph Faulkner <RGEFaulkner@xtra.co.nz>
Subject: Letter to QCT committee

Hi Bev&Ralph,

Here's a copy of our latest letter to the committee, for your consideration.



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

David Hayes

From: Chris Faulls [cbfaulls@xtra.co.nz]
Sent: Monday, 7 December 2015 10:06 a.m.
To: Wilderness Guides Admin; Rob Burn; David Hayes; Leanne Flynn; Tracey Johnston; Barry Maister
Subject: Re: Letter to QCT committee

Thanks Juliet...I just realised that my reply only went to Rob...I just pointed out that Anna Sorenson should have a reply along the lines of QCT Inc. attempted to gain co-funding to repair and regrade the track for the benefit of ALL users, but due to submissions against the application our funding app was turned down. Unfair to blame the state of the track on bikers...it has needed work done on it for years.

P.S Jules, when I said NZCT docs in my last email, I meant Link Pathway docs!!

Kind Regards

Barbara and Chris Faulls
 Smiths Farm Holiday Park
 1419 Queen Charlotte Drive Linkwater
 RD 1 PICTON 7281
 Phone/Fax (03) 5742806
 www.smithsfarm.co.nz

On Monday, 7 December 2015 9:55 AM, Wilderness Guides Admin <admin@wildernessguidesnz.com> wrote:

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Many thanks,

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To: Chris Faulls; Rob Burn; David Hayes; Leanne Flynn; Tracey Johnston; Barry Maister
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Importance: High

Totally agreed Barb . . . DOC does a wonderful job for the QCT each financial year with limited means but this funding could have been, and hopefully will still be, a massive boost to their operational budget.

Can I add that when I suggested about airing this with QCT Inc members, I mean potentially having a special meeting in Picton (20% of members need to request this) to endorse or discount QCT Inc applying for this funding. That to me is the key issue – do members want QCT Inc to apply for this or not?

The issue of whether bikes are allowed on the track or not is a management issue best dealt with by the QCT Stakeholders Forum, in particular Department of Conservation as the managers of the track. Bearing in mind that bikes have been on the track almost from its inception in the early 1990s.

All the best,

Juliet

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David Hayes

From: David Hayes
Sent: Wednesday, 10 February 2016 10:31 a.m.
To: Rob Burn
Subject: FW: Ten year plan
Attachments: Queen Charlotte Track Operational Plan 2010 - 2020.doc

Hi Rob,

Just to keep you in the loop, Rod Burgoyne has requested a response on a couple of issues related to QCT. I'm anticipating that this might result in further questions relating to the Plan that I have just sent him which I will be happy to answer.

Cheers
 Dave

From: David Hayes
Sent: Wednesday, 10 February 2016 10:25 a.m.
To: 'enquiries@thebluewaterlodge.co.nz'
Subject: RE: Ten year plan

Hi Rod,

This has been passed on to me to reply directly to you on the issues that you have raised.

I have attached the operational plan that DOC is working to at the moment for the Queen Charlotte Track.

There is no denying that for some, the perception of harm from bikers using the same track is an issue. The 2004-5 survey does indeed show that 53% of the respondents chose to make a negative comment about biker interactions as opposed to 41% who chose to make a positive comment. It needs to be pointed out though that this involved just 210 respondents from an overall total of 1,327. Where ever there are multi-use tracks there are these same perceptions and so I am not surprised by this. Having said that though it does mean that DOC does have a responsibility to manage this conflict as we are committed to the Queen Charlotte Track being used by both walkers and bikers.

You raise the issue around track user numbers not increasing at a rate similar to some of the Great Walks. This could be for a number of reasons and not just because there are bikers present. It's interesting to note from the 2004-5 survey that there were a range of dis-satisfiers identified back then (Section 4.2) and the quality of the track surface rated as the highest, hence our desire to gradually improve sections of the track. It should be noted to that the Departments partnership with Air New Zealand has been very successful in promoting the Great Walks and this has directly contributed to increased numbers.

I do agree that another formal survey could be useful. Various people are doing their own at the moment for different reasons but one needs to be done that has the required rigour to be used as a basis to inform future management.

I trust that I have addressed your concerns.

Regards
 Dave

From: Picton
Sent: Tuesday, 9 February 2016 4:24 p.m.
To: David Hayes
Subject: FW: Ten year plan

Hi Dave,
Can I leave you to answer Rod Burgoyne's email please.
It all started with the original question re the ten year plan
Regards
Pauline ☺

From: The Bluewater Lodge [<mailto:enquiries@thebluewaterlodge.co.nz>]
Sent: Tuesday, 9 February 2016 2:01 p.m.
To: Picton
Subject: Re: Ten year plan

Hi Pauline,

Also here is a copy of a letter a group of us sent to QCT inc before Christmas, you might like to pass it on to Dave Hayes.

I think it needs to be said that our group are not only business owners, but residents and rate payers that live! on the Queen Charlotte track! We feel there has been no study of the impact of bikes on the QCT since this study was done by DOC. <http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/about-doc/role/qc-track-user-research.pdf>
This study talks about the impact and conflict between bikers and walkers and is very concerning, but it's seem's to have been completely ignored at the time, we feel peoples feelings around this issue have now only hardened and yet our concerns as laid out in the letter above about the negative impact of mountain bikes on the Residents, Batch owners, QCT, our Businesses are being completely ignored.

Kind Regards
Rod Burgoyne
The Bluewater Lodge
Te Punaruawhiti (Endeavour inlet)
Marlborough sounds
www.thebluewaterlodge.co.nz
enquiries@thebluewaterlodge.co.nz



On 03/02/2016, at 1:58 PM, Picton <picton@doc.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi Rod,

Firstly can you explain what an OIA request is.
I have not replied to your email as I have been awaiting an opportunity to discuss it further with Dave Hayes our operations manager but since your email and my reply to you(which was the answer Dave gave me himself) he has had some very urgent issues to deal with and is still doing so .

Regards
Pauline Low
Administration
Waitohi/Picton Office
Department of Conservation—*Te Papa Atawhai*
T =64 3 5203002
Conservation leadership for our nature *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*

From: The Bluewater Lodge [<mailto:enquiries@thebluewaterlodge.co.nz>]
Sent: Wednesday, 3 February 2016 11:15 a.m.
To: Picton
Subject: Fwd: Ten year plan

Hi Pauline,

I have had no reply to my last email below, will I have to put in an OIA request?

Kind Regards
Rod Burgoyne
Private Bag 402
Picton 7250

Begin forwarded message:

From: The Bluewater Lodge <enquiries@thebluewaterlodge.co.nz>
Subject: Re: Ten year plan
Date: 28 January 2016 6:32:32 PM NZDT
To: Picton <picton@doc.govt.nz>

Hello Pauline,

That's very interesting as the chairman of QCT inc Rob Burns seems to be under the impression there is a ten year plan in place, and I quote from our latest news letter "This application for funding is to allow DOC to continue to implement their 10 Year Plan starting with Ship Cove."

So can you confirm for me that there is no ten year plan in place or ten year plan in place for the Queen Charlotte Track??

Kind Regards
Rod Burgoyne
The Bluewater Lodge
Te Punaruawhiti (Endeavour inlet)
Marlborough sounds

On 28/01/2016, at 3:03 PM, Picton <picton@doc.govt.nz> wrote:

Good afternoon Rod,

Thank you for your email.

The Department of Conservation do not have a ten year plan for Marlborough in place but there are plans to create one for the whole of the Northern area of the South Island which is now under the directorship of Roy Grice.

Regards

Pauline Low
Administration
Waitohi/Picton Office
Department of Conservation—Te Papa Atawhai
T =64 3 5203002
Conservation leadership for our nature Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa
www.doc.govt.nz

From: The Bluewater Lodge [<mailto:enquiries@thebluewaterlodge.co.nz>]
Sent: Thursday, 28 January 2016 7:47 a.m.
To: Picton
Subject: Ten year plan

Hi,

Hopefully you can help me I'm after a copy of DOC'S ten year plan for Marlborough?

Kind Regards
Rod Burgoyne
Private Bag 402
Picton 7250

Caution - This message and accompanying data may contain information that is confidential or subject to legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that any use, dissemination, distribution or copying of this message or data is prohibited. If you received this email in error, please notify us immediately and erase all copies of the message and attachments. We apologise for the inconvenience. Thank you.

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David Hayes

From: David Hayes
Sent: Friday, 12 February 2016 4:38 p.m.
To: 'Rob Burn'
Cc: Rob Burn; Wilderness Guides Admin; Smiths Farm Holiday Park; Leanne Flynn
Subject: RE: QCT Funding committee invite to Councilors
Attachments: Queen Charlotte Track Operational Plan 2010 - 2020.doc

Hi Rob,

Copy of Ops Plan attached.

Cheers
 Dave

From: Rob Burn [mailto:r.burn@xtra.co.nz]
Sent: Friday, 12 February 2016 4:34 p.m.
To: David Hayes
Cc: Rob Burn; Wilderness Guides Admin; Smiths Farm Holiday Park; Leanne Flynn
Subject: Fw: QCT Funding committee invite to Councilors

Hi Leanne and David

Please see Robin Dunn's mail below re inviting the Councilors and what he would like from you to help things along.

A copy of the 10 year Op Plan would be a great start.

Many thanks
 Rob

From: Robin Dunn 8558
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 9:07 AM
To: Rob Burn
Subject: RE: QCT Funding committee invite to Councilors

Morning Rob

Thanks for this and will ask clrs to gauge interest re a site visit.

What we discussed previously was getting a copy of the Op Plan and maps that show what upgrade/rerouting is planned, where, when and costs.

Can Leanne email me a copy?

This would assist greatly the clrs and in understanding what's planned.

Thanks
 Rob

Robin Dunn
 Reserves/Amenities Officer
 Marlborough District Council
 15 Seymour Street, PO Box 443, Blenheim 7240, New Zealand
 Phone: +64 3 520 7400
 Cell: 021 721 443
 Email: robin.dunn@marlborough.govt.nz
www.marlborough.govt.nz

From: Rob Burn [mailto:r.burn@xtra.co.nz]
Sent: Thursday, 11 February 2016 10:30 p.m.
To: Robin Dunn-8558
Cc: Tracey Johnston; Braden Prideaux
Subject: QCT Funding committee Invite to Councilors

Hello Robin

We had a our first QCT Funding Application Committee meeting today, the Committee is made up of Barbara Fauls (Deputy Chair Link Pathway), Juliet Gibbons (Bike Walk Picton), Leanne Flynn (DOC Head Ranger) and myself as Chair, QCT.

The meeting went really well and we are very keen to advance the funding application to MDC.

To help our cause and help the Councilors understand what the QCT is and what we are wanting to achieve, the suggestion is to invite the Councilors out to Ship Cove and visit the first stage of QCT. DOC would provide the water transport and give an insight on the proposed work. Is that something you would think helpful and if so, would you help facilitate it with any interested Councilors? We would want to do it well before the Finding Application goes in and before thoughts turn to the upcoming Elections.

I was disappointed to miss the Bike Walk meeting. I had it down in my diary for the following week....the perils of peak season madness.

Let me know your thoughts

Cheers

Rob Burn

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David Hayes

From: Rob Burn [r.burn@xtra.co.nz]
Sent: Friday, 26 February 2016 4:39 p.m.
To: Rob Burn; Wilderness Guides Admin; Smiths Farm Holiday Park; Leanne Flynn
Cc: David Hayes; Tracey Johnston; Barbara Speedy
Subject: MDC progress
Attachments: Tracey Johnston'- MDC Budget meeting notes 25 Feb 2016.doc; QCT Consulting 2016.odt

Hi All

Attached is some weekend reading for your contemplation and enjoyment...

I have had two conversations with David Oddie, pre and post MDC Assets and Finance Committee budget meeting and Tracey, who also attended as an observer, kindly kept in touch by text immediately after the meeting.

We had a substantial conversation this am and I asked Tracey to put down her observations, thoughts and what she considers direction to progress. I consider we are definitely on the same page and us, as a sub committee, are well on the way to covering the points she makes.

Attached again is the draft consultant doc and we have the QCT Stakeholders meeting notes of Jan 18 where it is Minuted the Stakeholders unanimously support the seeking of funding.

I have taken the liberty of including Barbara Speedy as Chair of Picton Smart and Connected into this as Tracey points to the P S & C Visitor Economy Growth Plan to focus on for highlighting the effects on the visitor economy.

Juliet and I will have a coffee next week and work on a draft presentation to present to our next sub committee meeting. Goes without saying all sub committee members welcome, and for the next official meeting I would like to extend an invitation to Tracey and David.

Plenty of work to do but a positive glimmer on the horizon, the trick will be to get out Picton Ward Councillors onside completely, then convince the other Councillors of the benefits of QCT for our region.

Cheers
Rob

Tracey Johnston's notes from MDC Assets and Finance Meeting 25/02/16

Hi Rob

Just to document a few notes from our conversation this morning.

I attended the MDC Budget meeting yesterday. Council agreed to make provision in the budget for an application by QCT Inc for funding of \$290,000 to allow it to apply for a 1:1 Govt Grant from the Great Rides Maintenance fund. The recommendation was subject to project plans and costings, further consultation with land owners and that the funding is successfully matched by Govt.

A few key points to note that will respond to the questions raised by Councillors;

Councillors want to see and understand the full project plan, how much of the total work required will be completed with this funding.

They need to hear supportive comments from operators and residents to give them confidence to invest.

It needs to be clear in the proposal that QCT Inc is facilitating this application on behalf of the stakeholder and landowners and that Council is a landowner so this is in effect about investing in their own asset.

It also needs to be clear that the works are part of the master plan for improvements that has been written by DOC and that together with the work DOC has scheduled it will all contribute toward the master plan.

Give a sense of what will be completed by the Cook celebrations and why that is important.

Reinforce the status of the Track and what that means for Link Pathway to be able to connect into this.

Landowner consultation is important, providing clear evidence of the extent you have gone to and are planning to go to on this will be very useful in supporting the application.

There were questions around the commitment and contribution from operators, ie those that directly benefit from the Track. You need to have a very clear outline of not just the \$\$ being investment ie the \$10K but also the in-kind and intangible commitment to this project by operators, possibly by outlining the work of QCT Inc, DOC and Destination Marlborough to attract people to use the track.

Mix of bike vs walkers and perceived conflict needs to be clearly covered in the application.

Refer back to the Smart and Connected Visitor Economy Growth Plan. Walking and Biking are a key area of focus for the visitor economy, this investment supports implementation of that plan through Bike Walk Marlborough prioritising it as a key project.

Hope that helps. Happy to work with you to peer review the application before it is submitted. In the meantime I would encourage all Committee members to use their connections to encourage positive conversations about the importance of the investment in the QCT, directly with Councillors and with their local network.

Regards

Tracy

Queen Charlotte Track Consulting

- QCT Inc produces a regular Newsletter keeping all members and supporters informed of news and events from the Committee, DOC and Stakeholders.
- QCT Stakeholders Forum, consisting of QCT Landowners Co op, DOC, MDC and QCT Inc meet approximately every two months or when necessary so that information is shared and issues discussed. The results of these meetings are spread to each entity's members and supporters.
- After unexpected written opposition to QCT Inc's MDC funding application, QCT Inc Chair, Rob Burn, arranged a meeting at Endeavour Inlet with John and Judy Hellestrom and Rod Burgoyne.
- The Hellestrom Burgoyne meeting was to pay a courtesy call to the written submitters and establish the feasibility of a public meeting with the wider Endeavour Inlet residents and QCT Inc members.
- The offer was made to come out with DOC and NZ Cycle Trails staff to present what was planned and hopefully dispel misinformation that had been circulating.
- A group of QCT Inc members then held their own meeting, excluding the two major accommodation providers and others that didn't wish to join them, a communique from this meeting was sent to QCT Inc Secretary for distribution to the wider membership.
- The offer to hold a public meeting at Endeavour Inlet was repeatedly made, to be organised by the residents but as yet has not taken place.
- The Communique from the QCT Inc members group was sent out along with a letter from the Chair outlining the QCT Committees point of view, with one Committee member deciding to remain neutral.
- The Endeavour Inlet group requested all emails from the QCT Chair and DOC. These were provided willingly to show the group that there was no conspiracy and that the QCT Committee and DOC were working together for the benefit of all Track users and the economic health of the wider Marlborough community.
- An Official Information Act request was made in November requesting all correspondence regarding the "Documents pertaining to DOC's consultation and consultation process before it's application to NZCT for the Queen Charlotte track to become a Great Ride"
- DOC are flagging the proposed new route out of Ship Cove at present. DOC have their environment and heritage experts working alongside local staff to ensure the areas values are preserved. When finished the Hellestroms, QCT Chair and others will be invited for a 'walk through' and further discussion.
- QCT Inc and DOC, along with NZCT continue to work on how Track safety is improved and the concept of 'shared spaces' is communicated to all users.

David Hayes

From: Rob Burn [r.burn@xtra.co.nz]
Sent: Monday, 29 February 2016 8:02 p.m.
To: Rob Burn; Wilderness Guides Admin; Smiths Farm Holiday Park; Leanne Flynn
Cc: David Hayes
Subject: Fw: QCT Trust
Attachments: QCT - Robin Dunn report to MDC Feb 2016.pdf

Hi All

More bed time reading to keep you in the loop. I have attached Leanne's mail to me this am before our conversation to give all an idea of the tight timescale.

Am just catching up on emails, we have Mal Hanson booked to come over on the 21-23 March, with the understanding that the report will be completed by the 1 April. I can get in touch with our GIS mapping people to produce such a map showing boundary areas between private and public land, I will let you know a timeframe once I have heard from them.

I am only available today and tomorrow for meeting. I had a great two days at the cycling conference in Wellington, with some great conversations around shared spaces, and issues faced by trail builders.

Many Thanks
 Leanne

I think Robin Dunn has done a really good job as attached, your thoughts?

Cheers
 Rob

From: Rob Burn
Sent: Monday, February 29, 2016 7:47 PM
To: Robin Dunn-8558
Cc: David Craig-8089; Kevin Wilson
Subject: Re: QCT Trust

Hello Robin

Thank you for attaching your report that went into MDC. I think you have done a great job of capturing what we have talked about and what QCT Inc and DOC are wishing to achieve.

The only comments I have is that QCT Inc is not a Trust and I think that MDC as a stakeholder is actually 23% of QCT....but I will confirm that with DOC.

I met with Leanne Flynn, Head Ranger of DOC today, to discuss costings and timelines, from their side things will be tight, the expert will be available later this month, and his report to be published by beginning of April.

I have asked Leanne to produce a 'beginners guide' map to the QCT that will make it quick and simple for the Councillors to grasp where the ownership lies, and where the proposed work is to take place and the priority order. This will accompany the costings for as much of the work to be completed for DOC's whole Operational Plan.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of QCT so far and we all look forward to sharing more information with you to see this worthwhile project completed for the ongoing good of all.

Cheers

Rob

From: Robin Dunn-8558
Sent: Monday, February 29, 2016 12:10 PM
To: 'Rob Burn'
Cc: David Craig-8089 ; 'kevin wilson'
Subject: RE: QCT Trust

Hi

Just wanted to stress how important a track upgrade report and costings is, as funding approval will be reliant on this and successful consultation with those opposing.

Upgrade of all steep track sections as identified in Jonathan's report need including in the upgrade/costings package and are this proposed, not just ship cove?

I did quote the economic data from the 2005 report to council, and have attached the agenda item and additional info FYI that went to council. Please advise if I did not have anything correct?

Will await your findings this week and happy to attend also if it would be useful.

Regards

Rob

Robin Dunn

Reserves/Amenities Officer
 Marlborough District Council
 15 Seymour Street, PO Box 443, Blenheim 7240, New Zealand
 Phone: +64 3 520 7400
 Cell: 021 721 443
 Email: robin.dunn@marlborough.govt.nz
www.marlborough.govt.nz

From: Rob Burn [mailto:r.burn@tra.co.nz]
Sent: Monday, 29 February 2016 9:32 a.m.
To: Robin Dunn-8558
Cc: David Craig-8089; 'kevin wilson'
Subject: Re: QCT Trust

Good Morning Rob

Thank you for your mail re the Funding for the Track. I have been kept in to loop by Tracey Johnston and David Oddie and I had a brief chat with Mayor Sowman at The Marlborough Marine Futures Forum yesterday. I have advised him of the 'Butcher Report' on the economic impacts of QCT on the region dated 2005, a report he said he hadn't known about so will mail him a copy.

We are reliant on DOC for the costings so far and on my list today is to talk to David Hayes of DOC and see how progress is going and whether help is needed.

We have a subcommittee meeting planned this week to work on our draft submission and will look at what direct we need to take after talking to DOC.

Cheers

Rob Burn

From: Robin Dunn-8558

Sent: Monday, February 29, 2016 9:11 AM
To: Rob Burn (r.burn@extra.co.nz)
Cc: David Craig-8089 ; 'kevin wilson'
Subject: QCT Trust

Morning Rob

You may have heard that a \$290k provisional sum has been included in the Draft Annual Plan however not without some debate.

There are some Councillors who are very concerned about the lack of any project costs and the lack of documented consultation with landowners.

The funding has been approved at this stage subject to Council being satisfied on these issues.

I was at a cycle forum in Wellington last week and met with Leanne, Picton DoC and had a good chat about QCT. As we need this track upgrade detail and costing within 8 weeks, by the end of April, I suggested if DOC cannot resource and prepare the cost estimates for all proposed areas in this time frame, then the trust should engage someone who can, otherwise Council and the MTF funding could be jeopardized.

Once plans and costings have been prepared, these need forwarding to Council and further landowner consultation needs to occur.

Would a meeting with the QC Trust, DoC and other working group members be worthwhile this week to ascertain if a consultant like Frame Group or Opus need engaging to complete this upgrade and costing work to meet this tight timeline.

Regards
Rob

Robin Dunn
Reserves/Amenities Officer
Marlborough District Council
15 Seymour Street, PO Box 443, Blenheim 7240, New Zealand
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3.24 Funding Request – Queen Charlotte Track Proposed Upgrade

(Cir Sloan) (Report prepared by R Dunn)

C230-001-B03

Purpose

1. This report discusses a Council contribution of up to \$290,000, spread over three years from 2016/17 financial year towards the upgrade of Queen Charlotte Track. The proposed upgrade will remove sections of steep track to broaden user appeal, increase user numbers and ensure track sustainability.

Background

2. The Queen Charlotte Track (QCT) is one of Marlborough's key and iconic tourism attractions bringing thousands of domestic and international visitors annually and contributing millions of dollars to our region.

The Queen Charlotte Track has well-established tourism infrastructure and offers a beautiful and unique walk or ride. The significant limiting factor for the QCT is the number of steep hills that riders and walkers need to negotiate. The difficulty of these hills precludes the QCT from having broader appeal with both international and domestic visitors alike.

3. Council provided initial funding assistance for completion and opening of the track in the mid 1990's.

In 2013 it was launched as one of 23 Great Rides that comprise the New Zealand Cycle Trails (NZCT), Nga Haerenga. It also forms part of the Te Araroa Trail 'The Long Pathway' from Cape Reinga to Bluff.

NZCT's vision is: 'Growing New Zealand through outstanding cycling experiences'.

Their objectives include: 'Increased trail user numbers, consistently high user survey satisfaction and positive economic impact reports in regions with trails'.

They wish to improve all Great Rides so they comply with the Cycle Trail Design Guidelines and maximise user satisfaction. Refer: <http://www.nzcycletrails.com/resources/>

4. To assist with achieving these aims, central government has created the 'Maintaining the Quality of Great Rides Fund (MGRF)'. Up to \$2 million per annum is available, with maximum funding at any one time being \$300,000. Any approved funding requires matched funding from another source that is not central government funded.

5. An application to the MGRF for \$300,000 was proposed last year, with \$10,000 being provided by the QCT Trust and the QCT Stakeholder Forum. The QCT Trust made application to Council for the remaining \$290,000 to last year's Long Term Plan (LTP) however it was felt that insufficient upgrade and cost details were provided with the application.

Several objections were received. Their concerns were that increased cyclists on the track could deter walkers. On-going consultation by the Trust is taking place with these objectors with the message that any track improvements will be beneficial for both walkers and bikers.

6. The QCT Trust is now working with the Department of Conservation (DoC) on the delivery of their Operational and Development Track Plan, with cost estimates currently being prepared. Upgrade is proposed in line with the Cycle Trail Design Guidelines and that DoC and the Trust will be responsible for all access agreements, land purchases or resource consents.

DoC and the QCT Trust are responsible for on-going track maintenance.

Should Council agree to this proposal, QCT Trust will apply to the (MGRF) August tranche.

7. The QCT Trust LTP submission was one of several Bike Walk related submissions made last year. These were referred to the Assets and Services Committee and then to the "Bike Walk Marlborough Trust" (BWMT) for consideration and prioritising. The submissions exceeded the

cumulative available BWMT funds over the next four years, with most funding being used for the 3 Urban Cyclepath Projects. The BWMT prepared an Evaluation Criteria and prioritised all potential projects, including LTP submissions. Evaluation criteria and project recommendations were presented to the Assets and Services Committee at last November's meeting.

8. The QCT upgrade and completion of the Link Pathway ranked as the top bikewalk macro projects. Three other priority macro projects include;
- Blenheim to Renwick using the Ōpawa (Opawa) River stopbanks.
 - A Picton to Spring Creek cycle path.
 - Renwick/Wairau off-road wine and recreational cycle trail circuits.
9. Six micro projects also ranked well, one being the further investigation of the Coastal Pacific Trail, which is now underway.

A separate BWMT funding application is proposed when further scoping and costs have been compiled to progress the above projects.

Discussion

10. QCT should be in the top three Great Rides of NZ but falls down the list because 10 percent of the Track is not easily rideable.

There is the danger of losing its 'Great Ride' status by not complying with the design and track grade standards required.

11. A cost breakdown and funding of the track upgrade plan is required to reroute sections of trail to obtain easier grades. This will improve the tracks appeal and better compete with the increasing competition of trails nationally.
12. NZ has 3 million international visitors annually, 10 percent are cyclists who have a much higher spending level over most other visitors. Walkers and cyclists are a very important part of domestic tourism, with cyclists being the 4th largest recreational user group. There are 1,250 cycle trails in NZ and growing, the tourism spend is around \$250 million dollars on those tracks and the competition is increasing.
13. The average user on the NZCT network is 55 years old, and is considered to be a high-value visitor by Tourism NZ (staying longer and spending more than average). Research commissioned by NZCT showed that visitors using cycle trails are staying one to three nights and spending between \$131 and \$176 a day per person. The economic benefit to regions of this spend is considerable. On the Hauraki Trail, the first year it was fully complete, there was an estimated economic benefit of \$4.5m to the region. In Otago, where the Otago Central Rail Trail is fully mature, the economic benefit is estimated at more than \$12 million per annum.

Summary

14. The QCT is one of Marlborough's key and iconic tourism attractions.

The track requires funding to undertake track grade improvements to increase its appeal and compete with the many other trails on offer nationally.

If MDC provides funding of \$290,000 to the QCT Trust, this funding can be doubled by utilising the MGRF – an \$8m fund managed by MBIE on behalf of the trail network. This would allow for the QCT to undertake trail improvements that would make the track easier to ride or walk – in turn, attracting a much larger and valuable visitor demographic. The QCT Trust proposes to apply for additional grant funding in the future and have been in discussion with the Lion Foundation.

15. An easier QCT will bring significant economic benefit to the region. It will attract increased tourism revenue, support local businesses and create employment and build valuable tourism traffic in the off-peak periods. This aligns with Destination Marlborough's marketing strategy with a key focus being increasing the cycle tourism sector.

16. Allocating funding to enable the proposed track upgrade will ensure the Queen Charlotte Track meet its full potential and delivers district wide and national benefits. This proposal clearly resonates with all Smart and Connected criteria listed below.

RECOMMENDED

1. That a provision of up to \$290,000 be included in the 2016/17 Annual Plan and two subsequent years, to enable the Queen Charlotte Track Trust reduce sections of steep track and increase user numbers and visitor demographic.
2. That any funding subsequently made available be the lesser of the \$290,000 or any Maintaining the Quality of Great Rides Fund funding approved.
3. That upgrade work done is in line with the Cycle Trail Design Guidelines and that Department of Conservation and the Queen Charlotte Track Trust will be responsible for all access agreements, land purchases or resource consents.

Marlborough - Smart and Connected					
Governance	Environment	People	Economy	Mobility	Living
Inclusive	Attractive	Quality Jobs	Increasing GDP per FTE	Local accessibility	Health
Enabling	Control over pollution levels, forms and effects	Increasing incomes	Innovation	National accessibility	Individual safety
Participative	Systems for protection and care	Increasing capital wealth	Entrepreneurship	International accessibility	Access to quality housing
Transparent	Sustainable resource management	Education	Productivity	Sustainable	Access to quality education
Strategic		Life long learning	Flexible labour	Innovative	Access to quality employment
Connected		Diversity	International connections	Safe	Cultural facilities and events
		Flexibility	Ability to transform		Sports and Recreation
		Creativity	Ability to connect		Opportunities for participation
		Tolerance			Social cohesion
		Engaged and participative			

HOW DO WE ACHIEVE THE BEST RESULT FOR MARLBOROUGH?

Record Number: 1629637

3.24 Funding Request – Queen Charlotte Track Proposed Upgrade – Additional Information

Council funding is requested to significantly upgrade sections of the Queen Charlotte Track to maintain and grow its user base. With Council funding support, this funding can be doubled through funding from the NZCT Maintaining the Great Rides (MGR) Fund.

Provided below is a summary which identifies why and what improvements are required, as prepared by Jonathan Kennett last June.

DOC is currently preparing cost estimates for the proposed track upgrades identified below and this information will be available shortly.

The QCT Trust and DOC will use Jonathan's recommendations to prioritise track section upgrades.

The key points are as follows:

The Queen Charlotte Track (QCT) is one of 22 Great Rides within the New Zealand Cycle Trail network. It is being marketed both nationally and internationally as a premium cycle tourism product.

Approximately 90% of the track meets the expectations raised by promotional material. Approximately 10% of the track is unrideable and does not meet expectations.

The Queen Charlotte Track is a 71 km long, very scenic, multi-day walking and cycling track. The level of infrastructure is exceptionally high with good food and accommodation options along the way. The Department of Conservation has completed some significant upgrades since the trail was first opened in the early 1990s. These upgrades now make up the best parts of the trail for cycling as the gradients are gentle enough to ride comfortably and the surface is wide and smooth.

At its best, the Queen Charlotte Track offers a sublime riding experience; however, the trail has yet to reach its full potential because approximately 10% of the trail is unrideable for Grade 3 and 4 riders.

If sections of the track that are currently Grade 5 or 6 were upgraded to meet Grade 3 criteria then the number of trail users would increase as many more people would be able to ride the full track.

Eliminating the steepest hills would also improve the track for older and less able walkers, at a time when New Zealand has an ageing demographic.

The four main unrideable sections are:

1. Ship Cove to top of first climb (2 km: 30-40 minutes mostly walking).
2. Section south of Manuka Lane (1 km: 8 minutes walking).
3. Black Point Lookout to Black Point Shelter (1.5 km: 9 minutes intermittent walking).
4. Torea Saddle to Shamrock Ridge (2-3 km: mostly walking for 60 minutes).

(Refer amp on back page).

Five years ago there were only two multi-day cycle trails in New Zealand (QCT and OCRT). There are now 20. The Queen Charlotte Track has more unrideable sections than any of these trails, but exceptionally good infrastructure.

With well targeted funding assistance, the Queen Charlotte walking and riding experience can be greatly enhanced, resulting in increased user numbers.

Other recommendations are:

1. Install new marker posts from 0 k at Ship Cove, counting up to 71 km at Anakiwa, registering distance travelling rather than distance to go.
2. Remove isolated boggy and rocky sections as listed below.
3. Include new tracks between Anakiwa and Picton in future promotional material.
4. Add interpretation panels to explain key aspects of area's natural and cultural heritage.
5. Install speed control measures where user conflict may be an issue.

After declining last year's LTP application due to insufficient detail, an email and letter was sent to Mayor Alistair Sowman and Marlborough District Councillors from Evan Freshwater, Manager (Nga Haerenga) The NZ Cycle Trail Inc. requesting Council reconsider funding support towards the QCT.

It listed examples of over 20 other Council's that are supporting tracks around the country.

Nga Haerenga, the NZ Cycle Trail would not be the network it is without significant Council funding for trail construction and upgrades.

From the inception of this network in 2009, local Councils have invested significantly in the development of cycle trails and cycling infrastructure. As the Queen Charlotte Track has been in existence for many years, it has been able to join the network of Great Rides without requiring significant local body funding.

Below is an indication of the level of commitment from councils with Great Rides in their districts:

- Far North District Council - over \$800k
- Hauraki District Council and Matamata-Piako District Council - over \$1m
- Waikato District Council - not sure the amount, but significant
- Rotorua District Council - considerable support
- Opoitiki District Council - over \$500k
- Ruapehu District Council - hundreds of thousands
- Whanganui District Council - currently have \$800k budgeted for next four years
- Napier City Council - around \$1m
- Hawkes Bay Regional Council - well over \$1m
- Hastings District Council - several hundred thousand
- Wairarapa District Council - around \$100k
- Hutt City Council - well over \$200k
- Nelson City Council - around \$200k
- Tasman District Council - already over \$1m and will match dollar for dollar up to another \$800k over next three years
- Buller District Council - \$10k per year
- Greymouth District Council - over \$100k
- West Coast District Council - over \$70k/year in maintenance
- Selwyn District Council - over \$100k
- McKenzie District Council - just approved \$50k/year for ten years
- Waitaki District Council - over \$300k
- Southland District Council - committed over \$1m

These councils have supported NZ Cycle Trails to date as recognise the benefits to the economy and this is clearly evident in Tasman on the Heaphy Track and Great Taste Trails success and also the recently opened Old Ghost Road Trail, with users nos. already far exceeding predictions.

MDC is also a 12% landowner of the Queen Charlotte Track, as sections of the track utilise road reserve and paper roads.

An earlier DOC Report (2005), estimates QCT generates \$9.4 million output, 98 FTE jobs and \$2.5 million value added to the district per year.

There are property/business owners located at Endeavour Inlet that are not keen on the proposed upgrade at Ship Cove end for environmental reasons and the fear of increased mountain bikers. As stated within Jonathan's report, easier grades will appeal to both walkers and cyclist and improve the track user experience.

Their argument is they believe bikers deter walkers on the track however there appears to be no evidence of this, as this is not being voiced on Trip Advisor, or through the i-SITES, Destination Marlborough, accommodation providers and the guided Walk/Bike operators would certainly tell of it.

The proposed upgrade will have to be endorsed by DOC and as only 2 metres wide, will have minimal environmental impact.

Reduced grades will reduce rider speed and installation of additional track signage to reduce cyclist speeds is also recommended.

The Queen Charlotte Track is already an iconic track. It has well-established tourism infrastructure and offers a beautiful and unique walk or ride. The significant limiting factor for the QCT is the number of steep hills that riders (walkers) need to negotiate. The difficulty of these hills precludes the QCT having broader appeal with both international and domestic visitors alike, and may miss out to other easier rides or walks now on offer.

If MDC allocates funding to the QCT, this funding can be doubled by utilising the NZCT Maintaining the Great Rides (MGR) Fund – an \$8m fund managed by MBIE on behalf of the trail network. This would allow for trail improvements that would make the track easier to ride or walk – in turn, attracting a much larger and valuable visitor demographic.

An easier Queen Charlotte Track will bring significant economic benefit to the region. It will attract increased tourism revenue, support local businesses and create employment in our communities, and build valuable tourism traffic in the off-peak periods – it's just nicer to ride in the shoulder seasons.

David Hayes

From: Roy Grose
Sent: Thursday, 24 September 2015 3:01 p.m.
To: Rob Burn
Cc: Jo Gould; David Hayes; Helen Price
Subject: RE: NZ Cycle Trails, MBIE

Thanks Rob,

I have spoken to Mark Walters from MBIE and filled him in on the history and relationship. He was pretty happy but they have to be careful in terms of responding to the Ministerial. Regards Roy

From: Rob Burn [mailto:r.burn@xtra.co.nz]
Sent: Thursday, 24 September 2015 2:00 p.m.
To: Roy Grose
Subject: NZ Cycle Trails, MBIE

Hello Roy

I have just spent a considerable time on the phone to Mark Walters, from MBIE. They, or NZCT, have had a Ministerial Letter about the QCT and one of the issues arising is Governance. MBIE are expecting a funding application from QCT Inc or bringing the Track up to standard, and as you know, we are reliant on a co funder that cannot be a Govt. department. I have tried to bring him up to speed about how it all works with DOC, MDC, QCT LC and QCT Inc. I have also said I have forwarded the MOU to QCT Inc's acting solicitor, Peter Radich.

i have suggested that Mark connect you directly as you are the most knowledgeable about the Track and what is required.

I have stated that we have a great relationship with DOC.... and MDC, and wish to help fund the improvements as outlined in the DOC 10 year Operational Plan. Mark wants to know how to proceed with making the Track great.

His phone number is 04 470 2330. If he hasn't called you yet, can you take the time to call him, please?

Looking forward to hearing back from you

Cheers
Rob