

Report No:	RESC12-03-07
File No:	
Date:	2 March 2012
Decision Required	

REPORT SUMMARY

Report to: Engineering Services Committee
Meeting Date: 15 March 2012
Report Author: Dugald Ley
Subject: **Tasman's Great Taste Trail Update**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an update on progress with Tasman's Great Taste Trail.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the report be received.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

THAT the Engineering Services Committee receives the Tasman's Great Taste Trail Update report, RESC12-03-07.

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1. Update

1.1 Tenders for upcoming works have recently closed and been awarded as follows:

Contract name	No. of tenders	Successful tenderer	Amount	Highest amount	Council estimate
Redwood Road path	5	Tasman Civil Ltd	\$18,034.40	\$24,868.00	\$22,453.22
Lower Queen Street path	4	Tasman Civil Ltd	\$48,436.80	\$67,617.00	\$84,000.00

1.2 The Wairoa Suspension Bridge tender has also closed with three bids. A verbal update regarding award of the contract will be provided at the meeting.

1.3 Further sections of the shared path around the Waimea estuary will be put out to tender in the next few months.

1.4 The Waimea Estuary board walk is likely to be constructed partly by contract (pile installation) and partly by volunteer groups or students as part of their curriculum. Local Rotary Clubs have also shown an interest in this type of work.

2. Marketing and Maintenance of Trail

2.1 The legal deed has been finalised by Council's solicitor and incorporates a set of maps that outline the respective areas of the trail to be maintained.

2.2 Three parties (Tasman District Council Transportation staff, Tasman District Council Parks & Reserves staff and the Nelson-Tasman Cycle Trails Trust) will be responsible for maintaining various lengths of the trail and this reflects previous construction, urban location, existing maintenance budgets and contracts. The deed has been forwarded to the Cycleways Trust for consideration.

3. Tasman's Great Taste Trail – Bylaw

3.1 Members will recall that a report outlining the new bylaw was presented to the Engineering Services Committee on 4 August 2011. This report included a copy of the bylaw. At that meeting the committee resolved the following:

THAT the Engineering Services Committee:

- a) receives the Tasman Loop Trail Bylaw report, RESC11-08-11;
- b) agrees that the Tasman Loop Trail Bylaw is appropriate under Section 155 of the Local Government Act 2002 as outlined in report RESC11-08-11; and
- c) approves that under Section 156 of the Local Government Act 2002 the Tasman Loop Trail Bylaw be circulated for public consultation under the special consultative procedure as set out in Section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002 and noted in report RESC11-08-11.

CARRIED

- 3.2 Further review of the wording of the bylaw indicated that it could be fine-tuned before it was circulated for public consultation.
- 3.3 Therefore with the change in wording it is appropriate that it should be presented to the committee again for ratification. It is expected that the revised bylaw will be presented at the April meeting.

4. Ministry of Economic Development (MED)

- 4.1 Councillors will be aware that no funding has been allocated in the Draft Long Term Plan for the cycle trail once Stage 1 (Richmond to Wakefield and Richmond to Mapua) is completed.
- 4.2 The Ministry of Economic Development has been advised. The feasibility case presented to the Ministry in May 2010 clearly shows the Tasman's Great Taste Trail split into three stages:

Stage	Details	Funding
1	Richmond to Mapua and Richmond to Wakefield	\$2.14 million from MED \$941,000 from Council
2	Wakefield to Spooners Tunnel and Mapua to Riwaka	\$2.05 million
3	Completion of Cycle Trail loop	\$2.0 million

4.3 On 20 August 2010 Council signed an agreement with the Ministry of Economic Development. The following clause is included:

The Tasman Loop cycle trail, which once complete will be a total of 175 km, of which the Funding will contribute to the construction of 44.2 km of Stage One of

the trail. Stage One of the Tasman Loop cycle trail will be constructed in two separate sections, one section starting at Nelson and go along the coastal route to Mapua, the second section from Richmond to Wakefield.

The purpose of this Agreement is to provide Funding of up to a maximum total of \$2,630,000 (plus GST (if any)); to be applied towards the construction of the Dun Mountain cycle trail and Stage One of the Tasman Loop cycle trail.

- 4.4 Clearly once Council has completed its obligations it can market Stage One under the banner of “Nga Haerenga, the New Zealand Cycle Trail” (Tasman’s Great Taste Trail). Indeed Council is obliged, under clause 5.8 of the agreement to brand the trail if we have met all the agreed requirements.
- 4.5 At the Ministry’s request, the Mayor and staff along with the Nelson-Tasman Cycle Trails Trust met on 5 March 2012. At that meeting the Ministry advised that they would be reluctant to name Stage One only as a “great ride”. Certainly as Stage One stood on its own finishing at Mapua and Wakefield, they could not see the economic benefits from overseas tourists as was envisaged in the feasibility study.
- 4.6 Clearly they would like to see some intermediate style loop trail formed and a downgrading (making it less desirable to young families and novice bike riders) of the trail to stretch the budget even further.
- 4.7 The main option that is now promoted is to not spend funds in areas like an “off road” path on Higgins Road and to find savings in other areas. Also to promote the trail via Wakefield (Pigeon Valley) and Dovedale down the West Bank Road to Riwaka with the addition of extending the link from Mapua via Motueka to Kaiteriteri.
- 4.8 Even with the downgraded loop trail, estimates show that there will be a shortfall of \$823,000. At this stage it is not known if this intermediate loop trail can be achieved, where the additional funding will come from or if Council wishes to pursue this option.
- 4.9 It is probable that submissions will be made to the Draft Long Term Plan on this topic and Council will need to decide this at the close of the submission period.

5. Timeframes for Completion

- 5.1 The construction of Stage One was originally proposed for completion in October 2012 but this is now more likely to be the end of December 2012.

- 5.2 Delays due to numerous consultation rounds, ie seven meetings from March to November 2011 solely on the Pearl Creek route have been frustrating. Costs in some areas (resource consent costs alone for the coastal permit of approximately \$100,000) have placed pressure on budgets. It is pleasing that good progress is being made in other areas.

6. Summary

- 6.1 Regular positive feedback from users of the trail has been evident and it has become a popular recreation facility for tourists and local families.
- 6.2 A recent article in the Australian Financial Review highlighted the benefits of the trails throughout New Zealand. Some of the comments quoted include “Cycling is the new golf”; People on holiday would rather enjoy a social ride interspersed with food and wine experiences and finally a great place to rest in the evening”; “the economic benefits flow right through the community with these tracks now completed”.
- 6.2 The April report to the committee will highlight further progress, especially the contract for the construction of the Wairoa Bridge.

7. RECOMMENDATION/S

- 7.1 That the report is received.

6. DRAFT RESOLUTION

THAT the Engineering Services Committee receives the Tasman’s Great Taste Trail Update report, RESC12-03-07.