

STAFF REPORT

TO: Community Services Committee

FROM: Reserves Manager

REFERENCE: 31760PR

DATE: 9 November 2006

SUBJECT: Rough Island – Partial Closure of Connington Road to Vehicles

PURPOSE

To bring to the Committees attention requests from the Tasman and Districts Equestrian Trust and members of the Ornithological Society to close part of Connington Road on Rough Island to vehicles.

BACKGROUND

Connington Road is a gravel road that runs around Hammond Point adjacent to the Equestrian Park on Rough Island (a map is attached).

Connington Road is a reserve road and it does not have public road status, it provides access to the Equestrian Park but is used more by pedestrians and people walking their dogs.

The road is close to the Estuary edge and very narrow in parts, it is often inundated with water and debris during high tides and storms.

The Equestrian Trust are about to change the access to the park which would mean even less traffic would use this road.

I have received a letter from the Tasman and Districts Equestrian Trust requesting Council to close this road to vehicles as it would enable them to remove two of their gates and give them more security for the park.

I recently attended a DOC liaison meeting and it was mentioned by a member of the Ornithological Society that if part of this road was closed to vehicles more high tide habitat could be provided for the birds in the Estuary.

COMMENT

The road access into the Equestrian Park provides vehicle access to this part of the island. Closing part of this road to vehicles would leave the area with a good safe walking track and further plantings could be added to the edge of the Estuary to improve bird habitat.

OPTIONS

Do nothing and leave the area as it is.

Notify the public of Council's intention to close part of this road to vehicles and call for comment.

Close a short section of the road to vehicles as a trial and gauge the reaction.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee notify the public of Council's intention to close part of Connington Road adjacent to the Equestrian Park on Rough Island to vehicles and call for comment.

Beryl Wilkes
Reserves Manager