

INTRODUCTION

The Hakarimata Walkway Steps located off Brownlie Avenue in Ngaruawahia were upgraded several years ago and has fast become the most popular track in the Waikato. The popularity of the track was not anticipated by doc and the usage is in excess of 100,000 people each year.

The Ngaruawahia Community Board identified the walkway as a priority project in 2013 and has been working closely with the Waikato District Council, DOC and Waikato Tainui to improve whole aspect of the Walkway. It is important to recognise and remember the history behind the Hakarimata and its significance to Waikato Tainui. It is also important to Ngaruawahia and New Zealand, in its entirety. .

Te Awa cycleway starts/end in Ngaruawahia, at The Point. Both of these locations are close to the Hakarimata Walkway and all stakeholders have been working closely together to connect Te Awa Cycleway, The Point and the Hakarimata Walkway together. By connecting these three things together it also encompasses Health and Wellbeing, Cultural and Economic opportunities, for not only the people of Ngaruawahia but for anyone who wishes to take advantage of them.

There are several main areas of concern with the Walkway. There is a distinct lack of parking in the area and no defined parking sites or defined boundaries for a local business. This did cause some unpleasant ness with cars being towed while the owners were walking. This has been resolved slightly but not to the extent it should be.

There are no public toilets or water available. A portaloo was installed late 2014 and whilst better than nothing, with the amount of usage and extreme heat the Waikato incur, it isn't a permanent solution.

There is an undefined entrance to the Walkway. Unless you know where it is, it can be difficult to find. We would like to see it improved with signage and planting.

There currently is no historical or cultural information at the site pertaining to the Hakarimata Range.

The current stakeholders decided on the following scope of work

SCOPE OF WORK

1. Install two toilets connected to the main sewer line.
2. Planting around the toilets and up to the entrance way to the Hakarimata walkway. This includes screening both Vector and Strada boundary fencing.
3. Install new waka with signage showing the historic and cultural story of the Hakarimata
4. Install a Waharoa at the base entrance to the Hakarimata Walkway
5. Install a Pou at the summit of the Hakarimata Walkway

6. Extend the pathway at The Point through to the Hakarimata Walkway
7. Signage connecting Te Awa Cycleway, The Point and the Hakarimata Walkway

Current Stake Holders

1. Waikato District Council
2. Ngaruawahia Community Board
3. Department of Conservation
4. Waikato Tainui

Possible Additional Stakeholders

1. Vector
2. Te Puni Kōkiri
3. Ministry Culture and Heritage
4. Trust Waikato
5. WEL Energy Trust
6. Wellbeing Trust

A meeting was held on Monday 7th March to chart progress and moving forward.

The work so far:

- Pou and Waharoa currently in design (Waikato Tainui)
- Layout for waka signage currently being undertaken (Com Board)
- Planting plan completed (WDC)
- Toilets due for installation prior to ANZAC Day
- Extended pathway completed
 - Signage connecting Te AWA, The Point and walkway completed.

Johnine Davis from Waikato Regional River Trust gave an overview of a new and exciting app they are developing in terms of the Waikato River and would like to include the Hakarimata Ranges and The Point. This will replace the need for a QR code.

Costs for the carving will be met by WRRT – subject to confirmation by DOC in regards to CAIS funds.

Susan has a meeting with Ministry of Culture and Heritage Friday 11th March regards funding

Ngaruawahia Community Board – raise the possibility of submitting a funding application to Wellbeing Trust for funds to support this project. All parties are prepared to provide letters of support for the project.

Hakarimata Walkway Budget

COSTS

Toilets	\$90,000
Waka signage	\$5,000
Waharoa	30,000
Pou	20,000
Transport/Erection Pou	25,000
Engineering/Consents WDC	10,000
Plants/planting	5,000
Dedication/Opening	<u>5,000</u>
TOTAL	\$190,000

These figures are estimates only and gst exclusive.

CONFIRMED FUNDING

Waikato District Council	90,000 complete cost of toilets
Ngaruawahia Community Board	15,000 towards Waka/Waharoa

POTENTIAL FUNDERS

Vector
Ministry Culture and Heritage
Waikato Tainui
DOC
Te Puni Kokiri
Trust Waikato
WEL Energy Trust
Wellbeing Trust