

SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL

29 JANUARY 2014

AGENDA ITEM C4

WAIRARAPA CYCLE TRAIL SIGNAGE OWNERSHIP

Purpose of Report

To consider whether Council takes ownership of the signage on the new Wairarapa Cycle Trail.

Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Council:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Accept ownership of the signage on the Wairarapa Cycle Trail within the South Wairarapa region.*

1. Executive Summary

The Trails Wairarapa Trust undertook the task of making application to the NZ Cycle Trail to establish cycle routes from the Hawke's Bay Trails Great Ride to the Rimutaka Incline Trail, and from the Manawatu Trail to the Rimutaka Incline Trail.

Part of the application was to have support from the local Road Controlling Authorities for their section of the network. South Wairarapa District Council gave their support, in principal, at the Council Meeting on 16 May 2012.

The application to NZ Cycle Trail was subsequently successful, and included NZ Cycle Trail providing signage for the length of both routes, and to have the routes posted on their website.

Council has since had the signage erected (on existing posts) on both trails within the South Wairarapa region.

Ownership of the signs on the Rimutaka Cycle Trail remains with the Rimutaka Cycle Trail group which includes the maintenance of the signs.

However, Trails Wairarapa Trust has requested Council take ownership of the signs on the Wairarapa Cycle Trail, which would include all maintenance and costs associated with this.

2. Background

The Trails Wairarapa Trust undertook the task of making application to the NZ Cycle Trail to establish cycle routes from the Hawke's Bay Trails Great Ride to the Rimutaka Incline Trail, and from the Manawatu Trail to the Rimutaka Incline Trail.

Part of the application was to have support from the local Road Controlling Authorities for their section of the network. South Wairarapa District Council gave their support in principal, as recorded in the Council Meeting minutes – 16 May 2012:

COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2012/71) to support the proposed South Wairarapa cycle trails in principal, but decline to allocate money in the LTP 2012/22 to address any road safety consideration specific to cyclist's needs that implementing the proposed trails would require.

The application to NZ Cycle Trail was subsequently successful, and included NZ Cycle Trail providing signage for the length of the routes and to have the routes posted on their website.

Council has since had the signage erected (on existing posts) and the trails are now operational.

3. Discussion

The intention of the Trails Wairarapa Trust was for Councils to both erect and then maintain the signage as provided by NZ Cycle Trail.

While Council has had the signage erected (on existing posts), but further clarification is now sought about Council's acceptance of taking ownership of the signs and any resulting maintenance costs.

Such costs would include (but not necessarily limited to) the replacement of any missing/damaged signs.

Number of signs involved: 16.

3.1 Options

1. The Council can take ownership of the signs along the Wairarapa Cycle Trail and accept all future maintenance costs associated with this.
2. The Council can take ownership of the signs along the Wairarapa Cycle Trail and accept all future maintenance costs associated with this, but on the condition that Trails Wairarapa Trust make a one off donation, which would be put towards future maintenance costs of the signs.

3. The Council can take ownership of the signs along the Wairarapa Cycle Trail and accept all future maintenance costs associated with this, but amend future funding to Trails Wairarapa Trust to offset future maintenance costs of the signs.
4. The Council can decline to take ownership of the signs and as a result the responsibility of the maintenance will remain elsewhere.

3.2 Financial Considerations

It is difficult to forecast the future costs of maintaining the signs as costs would be as a result of damage or theft of the signs. However it should be noted that two signs have already gone missing from the Longbush and Hinakura Roads intersection.

4. Appendices (to be tabled)

Appendix 1 – Letter from Trails Wairarapa Trust to Mayor Adrienne Staples

Appendix 2 – Letter from Mayor Adrienne Staples to Trails Wairarapa Trust

Appendix 3 – Email from Trails Wairarapa Trust to Mayor Adrienne Staples

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