

**MINUTES OF SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL
STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE
HEARINGS ON THE PAPER ROAD-BYLAW (DAY 2)
HELD AT THE WBS ROOM, GREYTOWN TOWN HALL, 89 MAIN STREET, GREYTOWN
ON THURSDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 9:00 AM**

- PRESENT:** Deputy Mayor Melissa Sadler-Futter (Chair), Cr Alistair Plimmer, Cr Aaron Woodcock, Cr Aidan Ellims, Cr Martin Bosley, Cr Colin Olds, and Cr Kaye McAulay.
- APOLOGIES:** Cr Pip Maynard and Ms Violet Edwards.
- NOT PRESENT:** Mayor Martin Connelly.
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Janice Smith (Chief Executive Officer), Jess Hughes (Principal Advisor, Legal), Narida Hooper (Pou Māori), Shanin Brider (Advisor, Community Governance) and Amy Andersen (Lead Advisor, Democracy & Committees).
- SUBMITTERS:** As per agenda item 4.
- CONDUCT OF BUSINESS:** This meeting was held in the WBS Room, Greytown Town Hall, 89 Main Street, Greytown and via audio-visual conference. This meeting was live-streamed is available to view on our YouTube channel. The meeting was held in public under the above provisions from 9:00am to 2:37pm except where expressly noted.

OPEN SECTION

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA – OPENING

All in attendance opened the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES

2.1 APOLOGIES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/132

Moved: Cr A Woodcock

Seconded: Cr M Bosley

The Strategy Working Committee resolved to accept the apology from Cr Maynard.

CARRIED

2.2 APOLOGIES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/133

Moved: Cr A Woodcock

Seconded: Cr A Ellims

To accept the apology from Mayor Connelly.

In Favour: Cr A Woodcock, Cr A Ellims and Deputy Mayor M Sadler-Futter

Against: Cr A Plimmer, Cr M Bosley and Cr C Olds

Abstained: Cr K McAulay

The vote being EQUAL the Chair did not cast a vote in favour or against the Motion 3/3 **FAILED**

2.3 APOLOGIES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/134

Moved: Cr C Olds

Seconded: Cr A Ellims

The Strategy Working Committee resolved to accept the apology from Ms Edwards.

CARRIED

3 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

As per hearings on day 1, Cr Plimmer declared a conflict in relation to any deliberations and adoption of a bylaw due to his position as a Justice of the Peace. Noted he would listen to and be present for hearings, but will not be involved in the decision-making process.

4 HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS ON THE PAPER ROAD - BYLAW

1. Leanne Bramley, submission #1524 – Opposed to the bylaw. Highlighted the importance of retaining whenua, sharing history, access to nature and the preserving the environment, wetland planting, shared spaces. Supported access for walkers, but no vehicles.
2. Hamish Wilson, Wairarapa 4WD Club, submission #2009 – Opposed to the bylaw. Noted if members of their club were found to be damaging the land, there would be severe consequences for them. The club would like to see public access retained for recreational activities. Noted that the road had the potential to become a historic trail.
3. Derren Pettengell, Wairarapa 4WD Club, submission #2427 – Opposed to the bylaw. Noted the club were part of various activities to support the area including coastal planting, search and rescue, taking kids and elderly to experience special areas. Suggested controlled and managed access to the coastline (assessments/permits for drivers, such as Central Otago – MOU). Open

to further discussion with Council, land owners and would like to help with solutions to ensure the area can be enjoyed for years to come.

4. Trinity Shaw (via Teams), submission #– Opposed to the bylaw. Concerns held about access to land for recreation and enjoyment and that Council should have put signage and fencing in previously, which may have led to users being more respectful. Asked Council to halt the bylaw and have a collective approach to resolving the issues and to forge a long term solution / a strategy to prevent further damage.
5. Leanne Karauna, Ngati Hinewaka, submission #676 – Supports the bylaw. Noted the scattering of ashes on land discussed in submissions yesterday. Provided a presentation which discussed key issues including extensive fire damage to the land in 1990 and fencing (previously said that Council would pay for this - 1934). Asked Council for support to allow the land to heal from damage sustained over time.
6. Stephen Ward, submission #2500– Opposed to the bylaw. Noted disappointment in vehicles damaging the road and stated he had been through a process to close a road previously in a similar state, which ultimately wasn't successful.
7. Sam de Schot, submission # 3295– Opposed to the bylaw. Shared concerns regarding the legality of the bylaw, Council-funded fencing as a solution, maintaining the area, provide better signage and prosecuting those who do not abide by rules. Stated that the suggested alternative routes were not practical. Presented images of the land and illegal grazing of stock.
8. Malcolm Blown, submission #2546 – Opposed to the bylaw. Key concerns were regarding access, noting that the relationship with Ngati Hinewaka relationship was a positive one and highlighted the importance of involvement with the Department of Conservation and hapū.
9. Meri Wichman (via Teams), submission #2741 – Supports the bylaw. Acknowledged hapū and Haami Te Whaiti and noted that the three year limit supports a long term healing of the land following damage by vehicles, causing destruction and vandalism. Suggested solutions in future would include meeting with stakeholders, improving signage, permits for vehicles post three-year restriction. Noted that discussions about this have been held with whanau, not with the Department of Conservation or Council as yet.
10. Nigel Bryce (via Teams), submission #3126– Opposed to the bylaw. Highlighted key considerations, including bylaw process, concerns regarding limited scope and the process applied for road closure. Questioned whether Council has all information required to make a decision, and whether they would consider partial closure.
11. Kevin Crowley, submission #2841– Opposed to the bylaw. Queried what happens after a three-year restriction, acknowledged the current issues. Acknowledged the issues, but stated that a

bylaw should be last resort to resolve them. Concerns regarding potential legal action against Council.

12. Ana Te Whaiti (via Teams), submission #3401 – Supports the bylaw. Noted the key purpose of the bylaw was for the protection of wāhi tapu, sites and areas of significance and prioritising the whenua. Highlighted that all stakeholders must be involved and engaged, as well as issues relating to climate change – impacts on the road.
13. Linda Gray (via Teams), submission #3520– Unsure about the bylaw. Noted that Council should be involved, create a pathway to repair or redivert land; the land should be allowed to heal or restrict access in winter months initially, but believes there should be public access for walkers or cyclists, or passes for entry for vehicles (e.g. for individuals with mobility issues).
14. Ian Taylor, submission# 2900 – Opposed to the bylaw. Stated that Council and the Department of Conservation should have maintained the road/area and outlined his use of the area in previous years. Believed that vehicles should not have access, but access for walkers and cyclists would be preferred.

Adjourned at 10:38am.

Resumed at 11:15am.

15. Darryl Carpenter, submission #2987 – Opposed to the bylaw. Spoke about long distance cycling activities and having contact with White Rock station when passing through. Acknowledged Ngati Hinewaka and is happy to have contact with them to do the same. The loss of cycle route would be a shame for him and others, may set a precedent for other paper roads if the bylaw is adopted. Suggested there were alternatives to closure and Council/landowners should work more collaboratively with stakeholders to find a solution.
16. Nathan Stewart (via Teams), submission #881 – Opposed to the bylaw, acknowledged the Ngati Hinewaka. Noted the importance of protecting the land, but the assumption that shutting the gate will solve problem was not correct. Noted use for recreational purposes and taking care of the area whilst there. Queried why haven't boundaries and protections have not been put in place previously in consultation with land owners and that fencing / working with other people and groups would be appropriate.
17. John Middleton, submission #3140 – Opposed to the bylaw. Noted use of the land for recreational purposes with family over many year, and emphasised respect of the land. Acknowledged that 4 wheel drive vehicles are damaging the road, and there are contractors happy to help where needed. Stated that collaboration would be better than division by locking the gate and suggested the use of fencing for boundaries, eco reef to help stop erosion and dual gate for foot/bike and quad traffic.
18. Bruce McCallum, submission #3164 – Opposed to the bylaw. Agreed that it should prevent vehicles, but should include clear signage, fencing and permitting walkers and cyclists. Noted he

had obtained a legal opinion which summarised that the current proposal would be unlawful in its current form. Suggested removing prohibition from walkers.

19. Tom McCallum, submission #3234 – Opposed to the bylaw. Cyclist club and business. Protecting environment is part of his business. Economic benefits – rather than banning them make them part of the solution. Exclude motor vehicles, not cyclists and pedestrians. Council and landowners work to ensure the land is protected and preserved. Last group of 8 cyclists went through the route. Accessing currently through White Rock station.
20. Brent Tapp, submission #3235– Opposed to the bylaw. Noted he would like to see access be retained with fencing erected and defined boundaries, that the road is brought back up to standard. Vehicle damage and ruts are not new, use of road has increased and believed that the bylaw was a knee jerk reaction to lock everyone out. Stated there were locals and holiday-goers with resources were happy to work with others to support the project.
21. Richard Murcott, submission #3337 – Opposed to the bylaw. As per presentation, highlighting issues with signage and suggest changes/improvements to support more responsible/educated road use.

Adjourned at 11:56am.

Resumed at 1:00pm

22. Kerry Hayes, submission #3270 – Opposed to the bylaw. Representing Ngawi fire department. Noted that if the gate is shut, FENZ need access to it for emergencies; stated that 90% of the damage to the road is caused by irresponsible 4 wheel drive users, not locals. Shared concerns about consideration for car parking at the lighthouse, as gets very busy there – and if road is fenced, it may need attention to free up some space there. Confirmed that the most recent, significant fire they have been called to was 2021.
23. Justin Hall, NZ Speleological Society, submission #3282 – Opposed to bylaw. Noted use of the area for Caving/canyoning. Stated that NZSS recognise rights of land owners, but rights to access back country across NZ were important. Stated that removing access generally was unreasonable and did not support closure of access, personal risk protection was not the business of Council.
24. Paul Clark submission #3343 – Opposed to bylaw. Noted use of the area for hunting, recreational activities and believes in the right to public access and that the paper road is a public road. Suggested fencing the road to Stone Wall or using concrete marker posts. Also suggested a camping area with support from the Department of Conservation, engaging with communities and other clubs, e.g deer stalking, tramping clubs etc (public meeting).

25. Brent Reid, submission #3344– Opposed to bylaw. Noted use of the area for hunting and fishing and diving; thankful to iwi regarding access, use of quad bikes for recreational reasons. Did not agree with information regarding damage to flora and fauna. Whilst he agreed the land needs to be respected, ultimately he believes in the right to access the back country.
26. Guujse de Schot, submission #3365– Supports the bylaw. Speaking for Stone Wall Scenic Reserve – noted that contestable funding from Nature Heritage had been received to support the area previously. Stated that the Department of Conservation and the Crown have failed to enforce agreements of no vehicles and they are responsible for the damages.
27. Ray Scott, submission #3395– Has used the area since childhood camping, supports pest control, respecting the land, camping and hunting. Supports the access to back country and in future for family activities. Suggested fencing off 150m from high tide mark, adding in appropriate signage. Concerned that further damage may come from disgruntled people and suggested working with land trust, document wild life and restricting vehicle use off-track.
28. Kim Matheson, submission #1870 – Opposed to the bylaw. Prohibition approach does not support conservation, education and eliminating vehicles / use of signage rather than causing resentment. DOC, iwi and Council collaboration – status of public road – enforcement can be applied to that.
29. Struan Griffiths, submission #3283 – Opposed to the bylaw. Stated that the road is a legal road for all to use, emergency access was a critical life line and felt the Council was rushing bylaw through; did not agree with the claims on the consultation webpage that the bylaw assists in protecting flora and fauna.

Adjourned at 1:50pm.

Resumed at 2:00pm.

30. Greg Brown, submission #3106 and 31. Michael Gunson, submission #3351 (via Teams) - Save White Rock group. Opposed to bylaw and gave a presentation on their submissions collectively which highlighted key points about access to the area for surfers, legality of the bylaw and proposed solutions.
31. Lee Carter, submission #2307 (via Teams) – Opposed to the bylaw. Shared photos and experiences accessing the Stone Wall creek area. Noted that submissions received from out of the region, should be accepted and given same weight as in-district. Stated there had been a lack of iwi, council and public engagement and that more discussion was needed about the issues. Noted that walkers and cyclists should be included in access and suggested that vehicle access was banned.
32. Suzanne Firket – Pre-recorded, verbal submission – Opposed to the bylaw. Solutions included a formed road - sealed/ gravelled, that the road should only be shut as a last resort and it was not

acceptable to bar people from public land. Believed that people should be encouraged to protect the environment.

33. Whitu Karauna, submission #678 – Supports the bylaw. Highlighted that the bylaw ensures the respect of the rights of the whenua and the landowners.

5 DECISION REPORTS FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STAFF

5.1 HEARING - PAPER ROAD

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/135

Moved: Cr M Bosley

Seconded: Cr K McAulay

The Strategy Working Committee resolved to:

1. Receive the full set of submissions on the Bylaw.
2. Note that 3421 online submissions were received.
3. Note that 144 email and physical submissions were received.
4. Note that of the received submissions, 71 individuals were heard over the 3rd and 4th September 2025.
5. Notes that deliberations will take place on 24 September 2025.

CARRIED

6 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING

All in attendance closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 2:37pm.

Confirmed as a true and correct record.

..... (Chair)

..... (Date)

..... (Chief Executive)

..... (Date)