



**Report**                    **05.161**  
**Date**                     18 April 2005  
**File**                      PK/03/06/03

**Committee**            **Landcare**  
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## **South Coast Trail**

### **1. Purpose**

To update the Committee on the South Coast Trail feasibility study.

### **2. Significance**

The matters in this report do not trigger the Council's significance policy or section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

### **3. Background**

A feasibility study for a coastal trail along Wellington's south coast from Makara to Owhiro Bay was allocated \$20,000 in the 2003/2004 financial year. Officers approached Terawhiti Station, the Department of Conservation and the Wellington City Council, to determine support for the feasibility study. The Department of Conservation and Wellington City Council were supportive of the study at this time.

A field trip to Terawhiti Station was held in 2004 with staff and Councillors from Greater Wellington and Wellington City Councils. After the trip, Terawhiti Station noted that they required further time to consider future management options for the station. As a consequence, the feasibility study was deferred until the 2004/2005 financial year so that the station's shareholders had the necessary time to consider the idea. Officers have forwarded material on health and safety matters relevant to a walkway development over farm land. Please refer to Report 04.309 for further detail.

A successful field trip was held with Terawhiti Station directors to the Belmont Regional Park in November 2004. Terawhiti Directors had the opportunity to meet with Landcorp to discuss the implications of walkways on commercial farming operations. Since this time, contact has been kept with Alastair Wright, Chair of the Terawhiti Station directors.

#### **4. Next steps**

Alastair Wright has reconfirmed the station's interest in the feasibility study. However, the directors are unable to meet and Mr Wright does not anticipate being able to provide a response to Council until the end of May (please refer to *Attachment 1*). Effectively this means that the feasibility study cannot be completed this financial year.

Should the feasibility study provide a favourable outcome, the Coastal Trail would be a valuable addition to the recreational opportunities within the region. The trail would follow the examples of the Hutt River Trail and the Rimutaka Rail Trail, two of the more popular recreational activities enjoyed by the regional community on Council lands. Budget has been reallocated to the 2005/2006 financial year to enable the feasibility study to proceed, should the Terawhiti Directors indicate their support for the walkway concept.

Walkway developments are becoming more popular and are supported by a variety of trusts, such as Te Ara Roa, and charitable organisations such as Rotary. In response to the increased value of land, trails are a viable method of enhancing the recreational network within the region. In the near future, Councillors may wish to consider an overarching framework to realise potential development opportunities on a regional basis in the upcoming LTCCP. This would follow naturally from the regional coastal trail investigated in the mid 1990s that was supported by the region's territorial authorities.

#### **5. Communication**

Until the feasibility study is undertaken, no further communication is anticipated at this stage.

#### **6. Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

- 1. receive the report.*
- 2. note the contents of the report.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

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**Attachment 1:** Copy of letter from Alastair Wright