

# Track re-opening plan for Waitākere Ranges

Feedback from public consultation



Prepared for  
Auckland Council  
**April 2019**

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# Executive summary

This report outlines community feedback on the proposed track re-opening plan for the Waitākere Ranges in response to the threat posed from Kauri Dieback disease. Input was received through feedback forms (661 online and 20 hard copy forms), letters and correspondence from 47 groups and individuals, two community meetings, two drop-in sessions and one-on-one meetings with affected residents.

A little over a third of submitters (35%) agree with the current proposed track re-opening plan, while 61% disagree, saying the current plan does not provide a good balance of recreation experiences and forest health.

Submitters living in the Waitākere Ranges area are less likely to agree that the plan is a good balance and instead are more likely to disagree (71% of Waitākere residents feel the proposed plan doesn't provide a good balance).

Those who do feel the current plan provides an appropriate balance are generally supportive of the tracks selected for prioritisation, and the plan around which tracks would be open over the next five years. They feel that the current plan adequately balances the need for recreation in the Waitākere Ranges with the need to protect kauri and forest health more broadly. Some however offered more 'qualified' support and suggested several other tracks they felt should be prioritised.

The general sentiment among those who do not feel the current plan provides the right balance, is a desire for more access to the Waitākere Ranges.

Submitters (particularly local residents) expressed a deep sense of grief and loss regarding the current closure of the ranges. People feel a strong connection to the forest and use it as a way to connect with nature, get some exercise in the outdoors and reduce stress levels. Because of this, they feel the current track closures deprive them of this connection and have a significant impact on their well-being. Hence a high proportion of submitters believe the re-opening plan isn't providing sufficient access to the park, or at the very least isn't being delivered fast enough. While they value kauri and the environment, they would prefer to see more tracks being opened, more quickly, and with a focus on the local residents/ communities and their well-being.

The three most commonly mentioned reasons for feeling the proposed plan does not provide the right balance of recreation experiences and forest health are:

- A sense that the proposed tracks do not provide enough variety (28%), with requests for longer tracks, loop tracks and tracks through the centre of the park
- Disagreement with the track priorities proposed and a view that other tracks (see details below) should be re-opened or upgraded (26%)
- Impact on local communities and personal well-being (25%)

A quarter (25%) suggest that there are too many tracks marked for closure, and that this will put undue strain on the tracks left open. Others simply do not believe that humans are the main vector

for spreading kauri dieback (20%), feel that the five-year timeframe is too long (15%), or mention a number of other similar points.

A smaller proportion of submitters disagree with the proposed plan for the opposite reason - they believe that more needs to be done to protect kauri, meaning they would like to see more being done to meet CAN requirements and control entry (12%), they believe that conservation of the ranges should take priority over recreation so the area can be enjoyed and preserved for future generations (6%), or they mention they support the rahui and that closing the area is the right thing to do (5%).

Sixty-two per cent of submitters mentioned at least one track that isn't in the current work programme that they believe should be included. A common reason for these track suggestions is to provide more loop tracks, link tracks, length variety, and create family-oriented walks for local communities - as being able to access the forest plays a big role in their well-being.

A number of submissions were received from the community in Anawhata and Spraggs Bush in support of opening some of the tracks in their area. These submitters pointed out that access to the Waitākere Ranges is a core reason for choosing to live where they do, but currently they have no local tracks open to them, and this is having a significant impact on their wellbeing.

The five most commonly mentioned tracks support the need for a wider variety of activities, e.g. loop tracks, as well as access for local communities:

- Piha Valley Track
- Cutty Grass Track
- Odilins Timber Track
- Walker Ridge Track
- Spraggs Bush Track

The Hillary Trail was also mentioned by numerous passionate hikers and tramping clubs as being a multi-day tramp vital to the area.

There are a number of tracks in the work programme listed for prioritisation. Feedback on these tracks was similar to the above, with people again mentioning the importance of providing a variety of different walks/tramps (e.g. length, coastal vs bush), loop tracks and access for local communities:

- Fairy Falls Track
- Zion Hill
- Omanawanui Track
- Karamatura Loop Track
- White Track

Overall, the general sentiment from the feedback is that submitters (particularly Waitākere Ranges residents) feel the current re-opening plan does not provide sufficient access to the forest. They are deeply affected by the current closure and feel community well-being needs to be prioritised. Residents and trampers would like to see more track variety (different lengths, loops, links, etc) and

better access for local communities than what the current proposed track plan provides. They would like to see human and community well-being put as a key priority for any decisions moving forward and would like their access into the Waitākere Ranges to be made possible sooner rather than later. While they see the need to protect kauri, many feel that this should not come at the cost of preventing community access to this much treasured taonga.

# Consultation process

## Background

In May 2018, the forested areas of the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park, and 10 higher-risk tracks in the Hunua Ranges Regional Park, were closed to protect trees from kauri dieback disease and prevent its spread. To help finalise this decision the council undertook engagement and consultation with those who use and benefit from the regional park, concessionaries, businesses, recreational groups, and people who live within the Waitākere Ranges.

Since then, Auckland Council has been working closely with the Department of Conservation and Te Kawerau a Maki to confirm the approach needed to bring tracks in the Waitākere Ranges to a standard where they meet national best practice for kauri and support broader forest health. The council is currently working on a track re-opening plan to identify the tracks that will be the focus for improvement work and re-opening over the next couple of years.

## Process

In January 2019, Auckland Council began a public consultation process seeking community feedback on priorities for track upgrades and re-opening beyond the current 2019 work programme already in progress. More specifically, Auckland Council sought to:

- Gather feedback on the proposed future work/track plan (see appendix);
- Identify tracks that should be included in the work programme that aren't currently;
- Identify specific tracks for prioritisation;
- Identify any tracks that shouldn't be included in the work programme.

Auckland Council consulted with the public through the following ways:

- An online feedback form distributed through various channels including Auckland Council's Have your Say website, Regional Parks and Auckland Council media/social media channels, etc;
- A hard copy feedback form distributed at community meetings, the Arataki Visitor Centre, etc;
- Email and letter submissions accepted through a designated Kauri feedback inbox;
- Community meetings in Piha (February 7<sup>th</sup>) and Titirangi (February 21<sup>st</sup>);
- Drop-in sessions in Huia (February 23<sup>rd</sup>) and at the Arataki Visitor Centre (February 28<sup>th</sup>);
- One-on-one discussions between park rangers and other council staff and affected community members.

The consultation process, which ran from **18 January to 15 March 2019**, gathered 728 pieces of public feedback, and included 661 online and 20 hard copy feedback forms, 46 email/letter submissions from groups and individuals, one petition signed by 106 Spraggs Bush residents, and notes/feedback from two community meetings and two drop-in sessions.

The feedback, which has been collated and analysed by Buzz Channel, is presented in this report.

# Feedback on the proposed track plan

## Balance between recreation experiences and forest health

35% of participants agree that the council's proposed track plan provides a good balance between providing recreation experiences and maintaining forest health. 61% disagree, saying that the proposed track plan isn't a good balance.



**35% | Yes**, the proposed track plan provides a good balance of recreation experiences and forest health



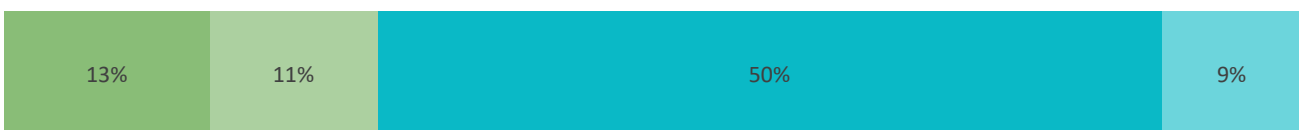
**61% | No**, the proposed track plan doesn't provide a good balance of recreation experiences and forest health

*Base: n=681 online/hard copy submissions. 4% were blank*

Only a quarter (26%) of participants from the Waitākere Ranges local board area feel the track plan provides a good balance, compared to 38% of those living outside the Waitākere area. Almost three quarters (71%) of Waitākere residents feel the plan doesn't provide a good balance.

Frequent visitors to the Waitākere Ranges were also less likely to feel the plan provides a good balance – 21% of those visiting daily and 32% of those visiting weekly, compared to 48% of those who visit monthly or less often.

Looking at the comments for the reasons why submitters agree or disagree with the balance of the proposed track plan, we can approximate that of the 681 online/hard copy submissions, 50% disagree and would like more access while 9% disagree but would like more closures/ control. Conversely, we can also approximate that 13% agree that the plan is a good balance, and a further 11% also agree but had some sort of suggestion for improvement or priority. *Other comments were blank or did not explain why they agreed or disagreed with the proposed plan. Note, this is an approximation of submitters comments and hence is slightly different to the ratings above.*



■ Agree - the plan is a good balance

■ Agree - but have a few suggestions/ problems/ ideas for priorities

■ Disagree - want more access

■ Disagree - want more closures/ control

*Base: n=681 online/hard copy submissions.*

*17% were blank or had no comment as to why they agree or disagree.*

**Top reasons for disagreement** Base: n=418 those who disagreed with the balance of the proposed plan.



**28%** | Not enough variety of tracks/ not deep enough into the ranges/ need more loops



**26%** | Disagree with priorities  
- other tracks should be upgraded/ reopened



**25%** | Impact on the local community/ personal well-being is affected

The general view from the public meetings and from the letters and feedback forms received is that people (residents in particular) are grieving very deeply about the loss of access to the ranges. People feel a very strong personal connection to the forest and are upset about not being able to use the Waitākere, walk and run on the tracks, take their family and friends into the ranges, or use the forest as way to connect with nature and reduce the stress of their daily lives. They feel a deep sense of loss and view the current track closures as having a significant impact on their well-being. The general sentiment from these people is that the proposed re-opening plan does not provide them with sufficient access to the park, or at least does not provide access within the timeframe they would like. While they value the kauri and don't want to see kauri become extinct, they would prefer more tracks to be opened, more quickly, with an emphasis on human and community well-being.

One of the main themes that emerged from participants in disagreement with the balance of recreation and forest health in the proposed re-opening plan is that there isn't enough variety of tracks, particularly loop tracks, longer tracks and tracks through the heart/interior of the ranges. There is some feedback from submitters that the current plan only provides basic walks and doesn't enable a range of walks where you can start and finish in the same spot without having to walk back and forth on the same track (i.e. a desire for loop tracks).

Other submitters simply disagreed with the list of priority tracks and suggested different tracks that should be upgraded or reopened (priorities will be explored more thoroughly in the next section).

A quarter of those who disagreed with the proposed plan, saying it wasn't a good balance between recreation and forest health, mentioned the impact on the community – in particular the effects on mental health and well-being. Some also mentioned the need for a focus on the needs of local residents rather than tourists – residents of Anawhata and Spraggs Bush in particular mentioned the need for access to tracks in their local area (this will be discussed in more detail in the next section).

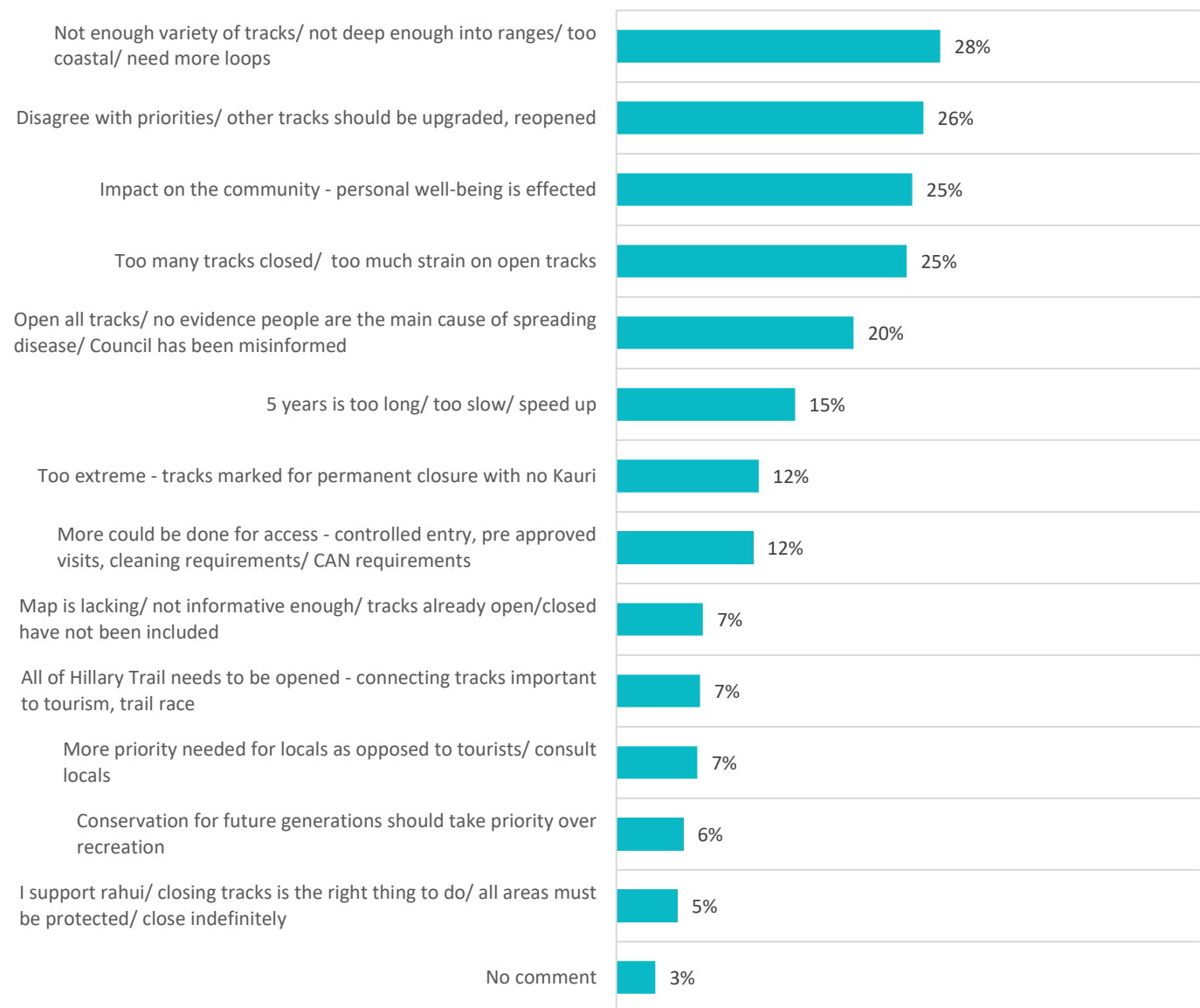
Both these sentiments were strongly reflected at the Piha and Titirangi community meetings. As described above, local residents feel a deep personal connection to the ranges and are grieving about the loss of access and the impact this is having on their well-being (and the well-being of their family).

Additionally, quite a few of the longer email/letter submissions were from a range of Auckland based tramping clubs that feel passionately about longer walks and the benefit that having access to the forest has on their own well-being, reinforcing the above themes.

## Other reasons for disagreement

Tell us more about why you agree/disagree with the tracks shown in the plan:

Base: n=418 those who disagreed with the balance of the proposed plan.



Another theme mentioned by a quarter of those who disagree with the proposed track plan is that there are too many tracks marked for closure, and that this will put strain on the ones left open. Other themes mentioned include those wanting to open all tracks as they believe there is no evidence of kauri dieback, some believing the closures are too extreme/unnecessary as some tracks have no kauri on them, and concerns/issues with the 5-year timeframe being too long.

A few participants at the Piha and Titirangi workshops also mentioned that there needs to be greater consideration and protection of the historical value of the Waitākere Ranges and its tracks. This was supported by a small portion of participants in the online feedback and was mentioned in a few letter submissions.

There was also a concern expressed about how the tracks are being upgraded. There are a few trampers who don't want to lose the natural experience of walking through the bush by having to walk on gravel and/or boardwalks.

**It should also be noted that there are a portion of submitters who had a different view to the themes discussed above.** These participants also don't agree with the balance of the proposed track plan but want to see more tracks closed - 12% of those who don't agree believe more could be done to meet CAN requirements and control entry, 6% believe that conservation of the Ranges should take priority over recreation so the area can be enjoyed and preserved for future generations, and 5% mentioned they support the rahui and that closing the area was the right thing to do. A few even mentioned that the area should be closed indefinitely. These ideas were also supported by a small number of people at the community meetings.

### **Reasons for agreement**

35% of online/hard copy submitters agreed that the proposed track plan provides a good balance of forest health and recreational experiences. Reasons for agreeing reinforced general support for the plan and track selection, and some participants mentioned it was good to know what tracks are open now and what will be open in the future.

Some of those that agreed with the plan still had a few suggestions for other tracks that should be prioritised or re-opened. These suggestions echoed the themes mentioned by those who disagree with the balance of the plan around enabling more variety, length and loops, etc.

# Tracks to be included in the work programme

## Tracks submitters would like to see included in the future work programme

62% of submitters said that there are tracks that aren't currently included in the future work programme that they believe should be. Conversely, 27% had no suggestions for other tracks outside of the ones already included in the work programme.



**62% | Yes**, there are tracks that aren't in the work programme that should be included



**27% | No**, there are no tracks that aren't currently in the work programme that should be included

*Base: n=681 online/hard copy submissions. 11% were blank*

Similar to the differences between those who think the proposed plan is a good balance versus those who don't, submitters who have suggestions for tracks to be included are more likely to be living in the immediate Waitākere Ranges local board area (75% have suggestions), and are more likely to visit the area daily (75% have suggestions) or weekly (73% have suggestions). Submitters living in the wider Auckland region and visiting monthly or less regularly are less likely to give suggestions.

There are a number of specific tracks suggested by submitters for inclusion into the work programme (shown in the chart below). There are also some commonly mentioned reasons for wanting these tracks included.

One theme/concern mentioned by submitters was that all currently open tracks (which are now being used heavily) need to be included into the work programme so they can be brought up to the CAN standards.

In line with feedback above, a number of submitters want access to loop tracks, linking tracks, a variety of tracks of different lengths, and those that enable family access to the Waitākere Ranges, and hence they mentioned tracks that deliver these things. Submitters also mentioned the need for local access to the ranges, and the impact track closures are having on community well-being. Hence, they requested a number of tracks be included in the future work programme.

The five most commonly mentioned tracks support the need for a wider variety of activities, e.g. loop tracks, as well as access for local communities:

- Piha Valley Track
- Cutty Grass Track
- Odlin Timber Track
- Walker Ridge Track
- Spraggs Bush Track

The Hillary Trail was also mentioned by numerous passionate hikers and tramping clubs as being a multi-day tramp vital to the area.

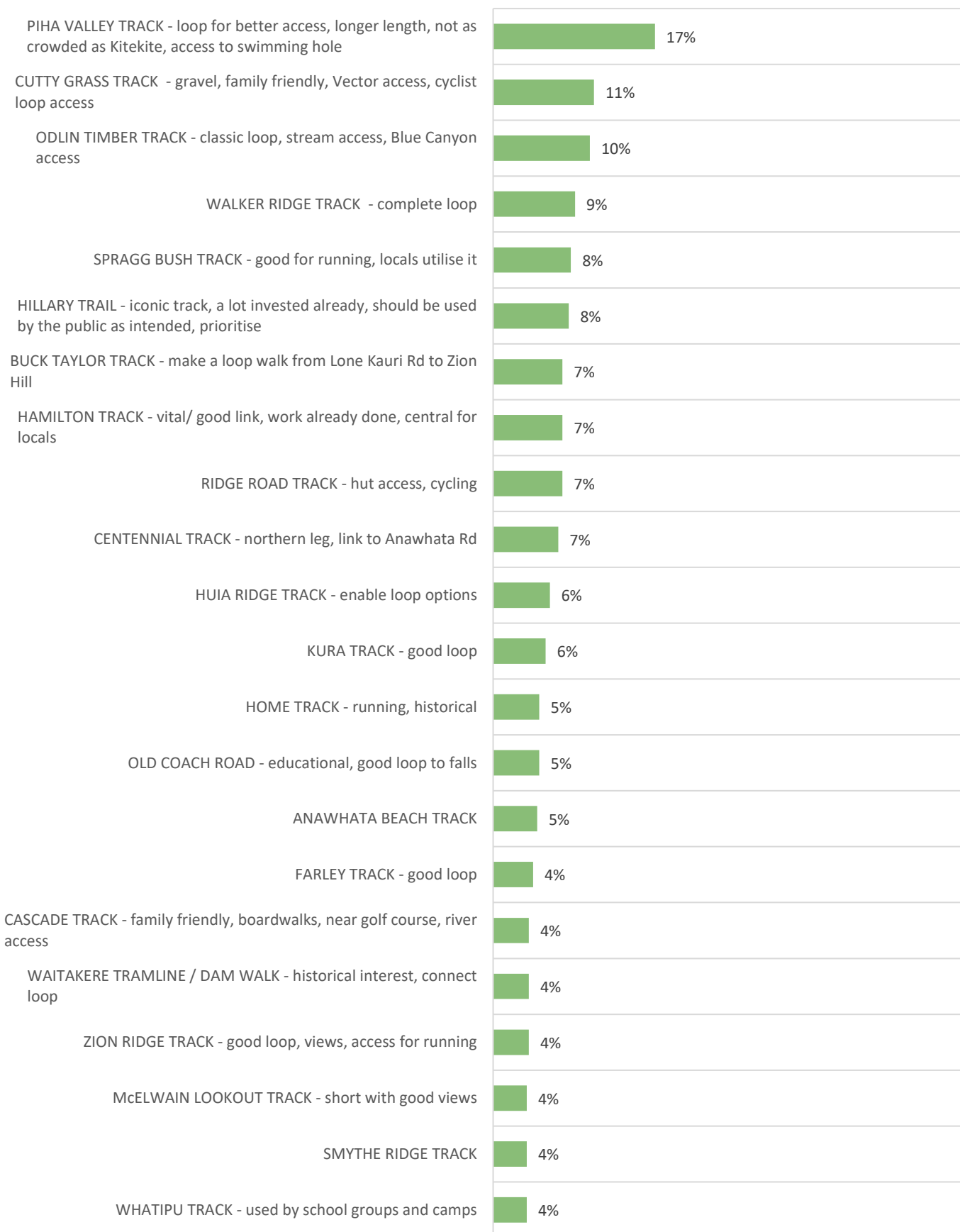
The prioritisation of local communities is a theme that has been commonly mentioned throughout the consultation process. Local residents feel priority is being given to tourists instead of focusing on the needs of the Waitākere Ranges community and their access to the bush/tracks.

A number of submissions were received from the community in Anawhata in support of opening tracks in their area. These submitters pointed out that access to the Waitākere Ranges is vital to their community as its main amenity and a core reason for choosing to live where they do, but currently they have no local tracks open to them, and this is having a significant impact on their well-being.

In a similar vein, Spraggs Bush residents sent through a petition signed by 106 members of the community in support of opening tracks in the area. They also feel that the lack of access to their local tracks is having a significant impact on their community and well-being.

## Tracks submitters would like to see included in the future work programme

Base: n=422 (yes, I think a track should be included) PLUS 28 email/letter submissions.

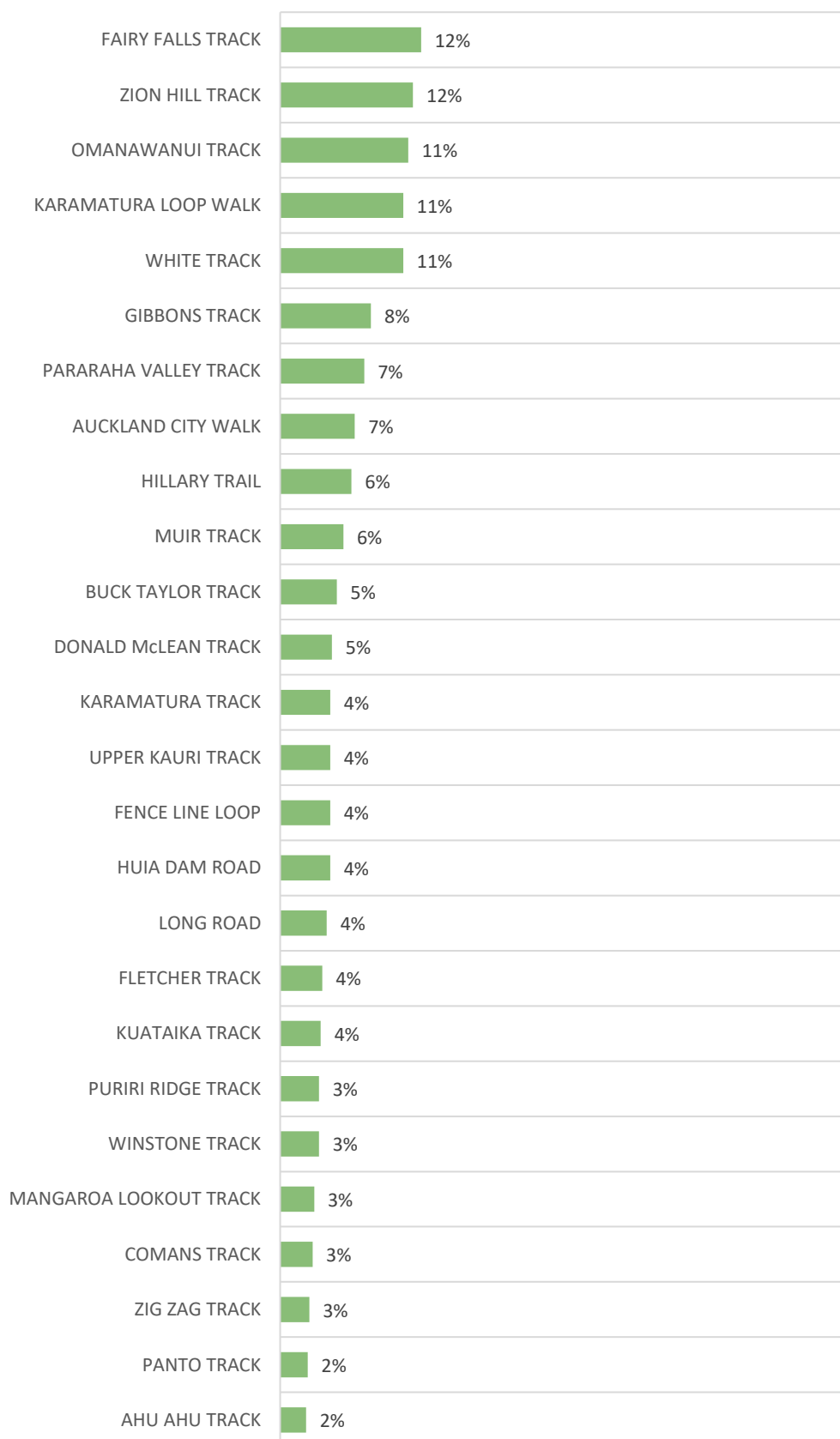


\*Other tracks were mentioned by less than 15 submitters

# Tracks to be prioritised

## Tracks in the future work programme submitters would like to see prioritised

Base: n=681 PLUS 20 email/letter submissions.



*\*Other tracks were mentioned by less than 15 submitters*

There are a number of tracks in the work programme listed for prioritisation. Feedback on these tracks was similar to the above, with people again mentioning the importance of providing:

- A variety of different walks/tramps (e.g. length, coastal vs bush)
- Creation of loops
- Access for local communities

## Tracks to be excluded

### **Tracks submitters would like to see excluded from the work programme:**

Very few submitters gave suggestions on which tracks could be excluded from the work programme all together. 82% had no comment to make on this question or said there were no tracks they would mark for exclusion.

Of those who did comment, 4% mentioned the Karekare to Whatipu route – suggesting this could be rerouted along the beach. Two per cent said that any route with kauri dieback should be rerouted and prioritised for improvement, and the same proportion took the opportunity to reinforce the need to prioritise loop/longer tracks. A small proportion (1%) mentioned that all of the tracks should be closed permanently.

## Impacts on local businesses

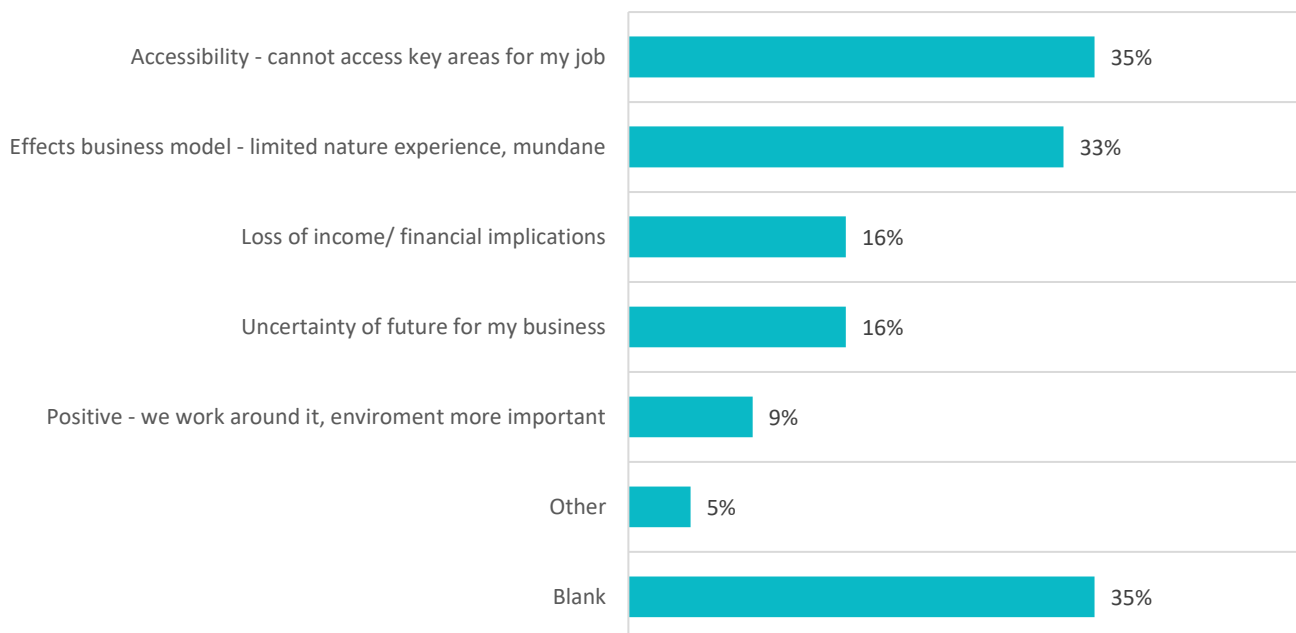
There were 34 online/hard copy submissions from people who are a part of a business in the Waitākere Ranges area. Of these, 41% mentioned that the proposed plan will have a negative outcome once it's complete – while 32% mentioned it will have a positive impact (21% identified that the plan will have no impact).

Impacts on businesses include physical accessibility as their business operates in the ranges, the effect on the business model which used to focus around the nature of the Ranges, loss of income due to the closures, and uncertainty around the future of businesses operating in the area.

Those who see a positive impact mentioned that it is something they can work around and the focus on the health of the environment is more important.

### **Please describe the impact on your business:**

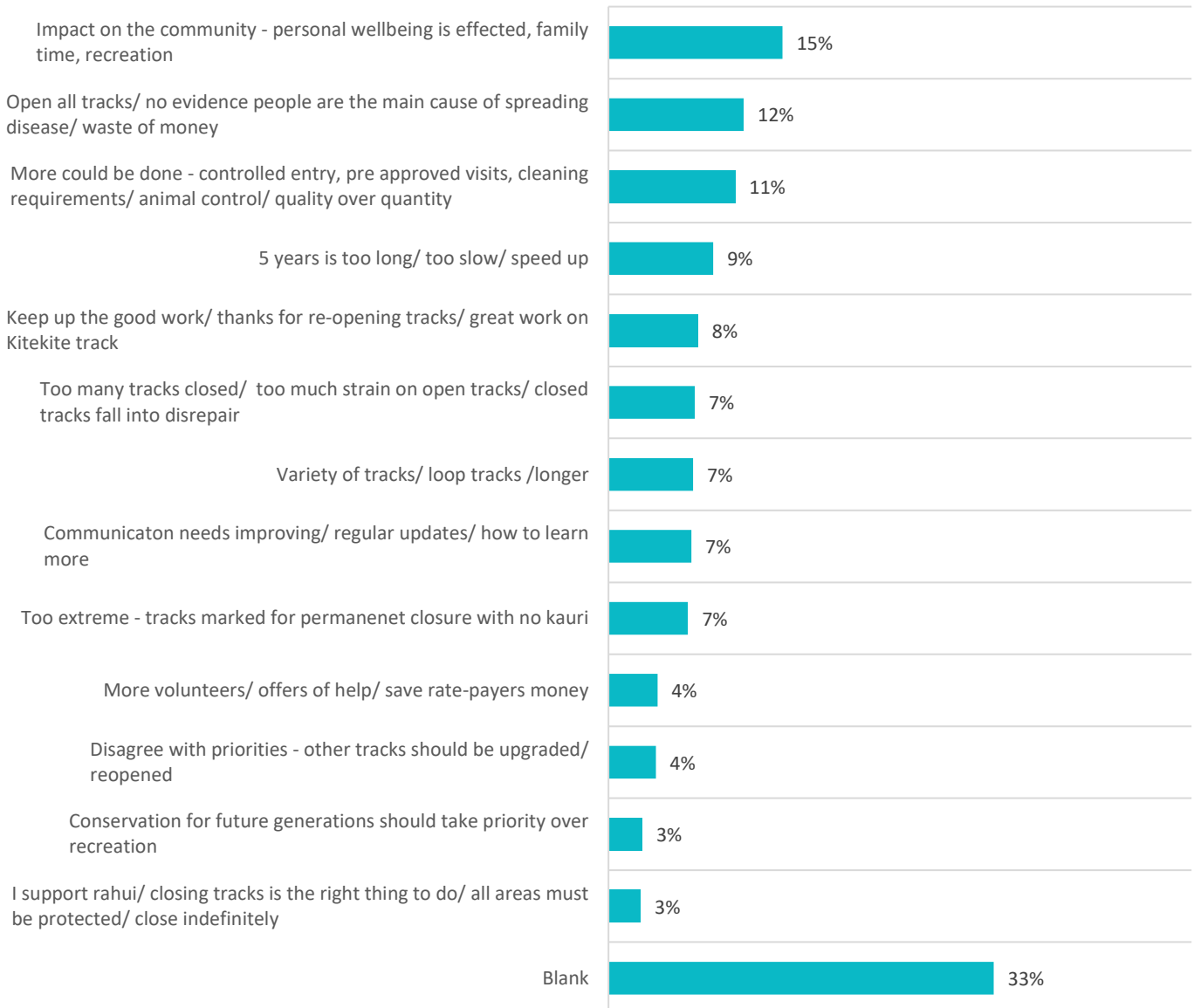
*Base: n=34 PLUS 9 email/letter submissions.*



# Final / additional comments

## Final comments from the feedback form reflect the general themes and feelings

Base: n=681 PLUS 9 email/letter submissions.



# Profile of submitters

Base: n=681 online/hard copy submissions.

## Local board area:

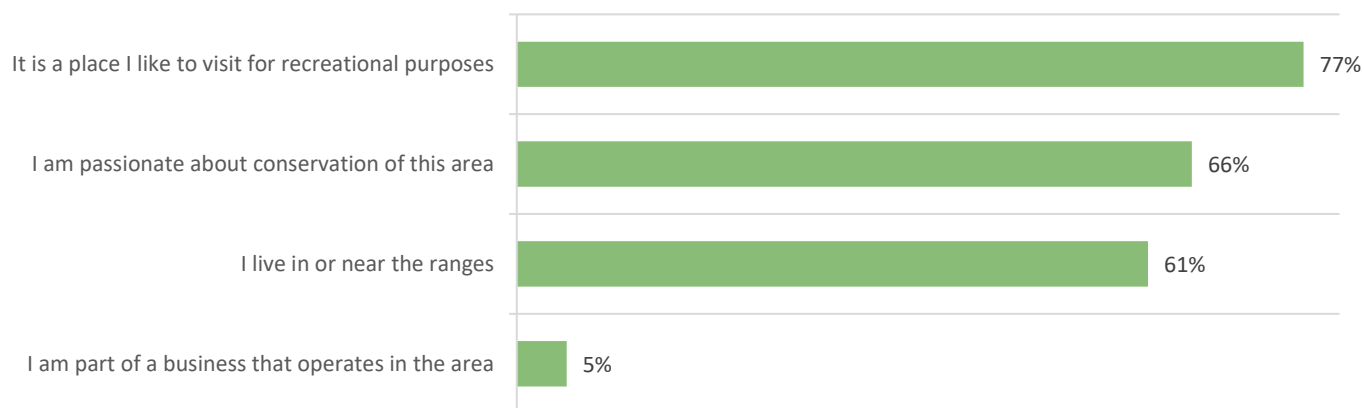


**46%** | Waitākere Ranges  
local board resident

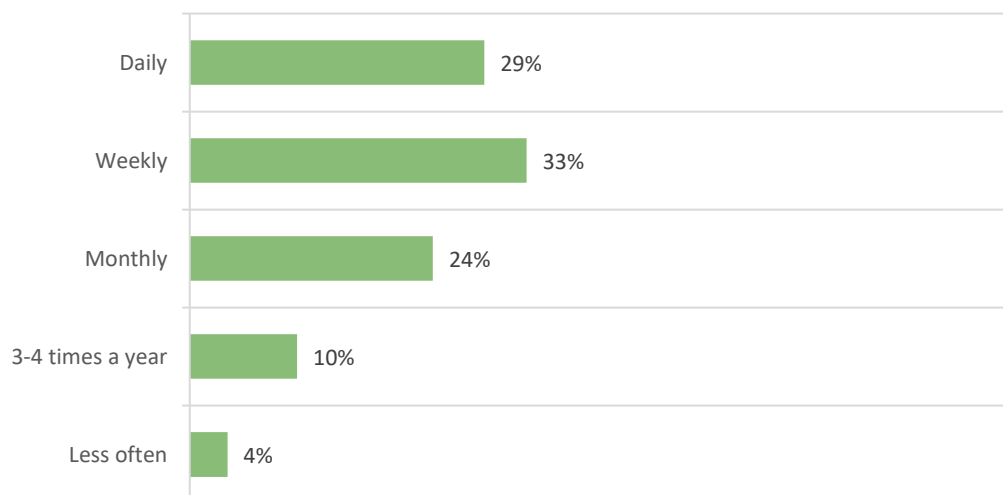


**54%** | Resident of another  
Auckland local board or not known

## Interest in the ranges:



## Frequency of visits to the ranges:



# Appendix

Proposed track plan and online/hard copy feedback form:



## Draft Track Plan for Waitākere Ranges Regional Park.

The following tracks will remain open or partially open:

Track name	Current status - Jan 2019	Future track status
Anawhata Beach Track	Open	Track to remain open
Arataki Lookout Track	Open	Track to remain open
Arataki Nature Trail	Partially open (Upper Loop)	Track to remain partially open (Upper Loop) Lower Loop confirmed in current work programme
Beveridge Track	Open	Track to remain open
Byers Walk	Open	Track to remain open
Connect Track	Open	Track to remain open
Exhibition Drive (Watercare)	Open	Track to remain open
Huia Dam Road (Watercare)	Open	Track to remain open
Ian Wells Track	Partially open (from Piha Road to Dam)	Track to remain partially open (from Piha Road to Dam only)
Kakamatua Beach Walk	Open	Track to remain open
Kitekite Track	Open	Track to remain open
Knutzen Track	Open	Track to remain open
Laird Thomson Track	Open	Track to remain open
Lake Wainamu Track	Open	Track to remain open
Large Kauri Walk	Open	Track to remain open
Lion Rock Track	Open	Track to remain open
Long Road Track	Partially open (from road end to where paddock meets the forest)	Track to remain partially open (from road end to where paddock meets the forest). The remainder of the track is proposed for future work programme.
Manukau Timber Company Heritage Trail	Open	Track to remain open
Marawhara Walk	Open	Track to remain open
Mercer Bay Loop Track	Open	Track to remain open
Monument Track (Mc Lachlan)	Open	Track to remain open
Orpheus Graves Walk	Open	Track to remain open
Parker Track	Open	Track to remain open
Pipeline Road (Watercare)	Open	Track to remain open
Pohutukawa Glade Walk	Open	Track to remain open
Rose Track	Open	Track to remain open
Spragg Monument Track	Open	Track to remain open
Taraire Track	Partially open (from road to waterfall)	Track to remain partially open (from road to waterfall only)
Tasman Lookout Track	Open	Track to remain open
Te Henga Walkway (DOC)	Open	Track to remain open
Upper Nihotupu Dam Road (Watercare) and Upper Nihotupu Walk	Open	Track to remain open
Waitakere Dam Walk	Open	Track to remain open
Whatipu Caves Track	Open	Track to remain open

Design and/or construction has been confirmed to begin on the following tracks in the current work programme (2019):

Track name	Current status - Jan 2019	Work programme status
Ahu Ahu Track	Closed	Track confirmed in current work programme
Arataki Nature Trail (Lower Loop)	Partially open (Upper Loop)	Upper Loop to remain open. Lower Loop confirmed in current work programme
Comans Track	Closed	Track confirmed in current work programme
Taitomo Track (between Mercer Bay Loop Track and Tasman Lookout Track)	New track not yet open	Track confirmed in current work programme
Mt Donald McLean Walk	Closed	Track confirmed in current work programme
Pararaha Valley Track	Closed	Track confirmed in current work programme
Slip Track	Closed	Track confirmed in current work programme
Zigzag Track	Closed	Track confirmed in current work programme

Tracks for potential inclusion in our five-year work programme and beyond.

The following tracks have been identified for future re-opening and we are seeking feedback to inform their prioritisation. The information gathered through this process will assist with the development of a detailed five-year work programme and higher level longer term plan which will take into account community preference, opportunities to “bundle” track work for operational efficiency and resources:

In making the decision to reopen tracks the following has and will continue to be considered:

- priority on recreating coastal connectivity, providing for multi-day walking opportunities and kauri-safe access to identified iconic destinations – this is in line with feedback received during public engagement undertaken ahead of the decision to close the forested area of the park
- tracks opened once they are of a standard where they protect and support forest health, in particular prevent the movement of soil to stop the spread of kauri dieback both within and out of the park,
- avoid high value non-symptomatic kauri ecosystems, and
- provide a range of recreational opportunities that where possible are concentrated to the forest edge.

Track name	Current status - Jan 2019	Work programme status
Auckland City Walk	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Buck Taylor Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond (partial - between Pararaha Valley Track and Zion Hill Track only).
Con Bryan Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Donald McLean Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Fairy Falls Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Fence Line Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Fletcher Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Gibbons Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Houghton Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Jubilee Walk	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Karamatura Loop Walk	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Karamatura Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Kauri Grove Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond (partial - between Winstone Track and Connect Track only).
Kuataika Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Long Road Track	Partially open (from road end to where paddock meets the forest)	Part of track to remain open (from road end to where paddock meets the forest). Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond (from where paddock meets the forest to Fence Line Track).
Lower Nihotupu Dam Road	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond. (partial - between Pipeline Road and Huia Road only).
Maungaroa Lookout Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Muir Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Omanawanui Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Opanuku Pipeline Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond (partial - from Mountain Road to the campground only).
Panto Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Parau Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Puriri Ridge Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Signal House Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Upper Kauri Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond

Ussher Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Whatitiri Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
White Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond
Winstone Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond (partial - from Ussher Track to Kauri Grove Track only).
Zion Hill Track	Closed	Track proposed for five-year work programme or beyond

The following closed tracks are not proposed as priority for re-opening.

Track name	Current status - Jan 2019	Proposed future status
Anderson Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Arthur Mead Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Browne Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Buck Taylor Track	Closed	Part of the track is proposed in the future work programme (between Pararaha Valley Track and Zion Hill Track). Part of the track is proposed to remain closed (between Zion Hill and Lone Kauri Road).
Cascade Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Cave Rock Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Centennial Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Chateau Mosquito Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Christies Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Clark Bush Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Cowan Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Crusher Pipe Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Cutty Grass Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Destruction Gully Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Dreamlands Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
East Tunnel Mouth Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Farley Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Ferndown Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Filter Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Forbes Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Goat Hill Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Goodfellow Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Hamilton Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Hettig Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Home Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Horoeka Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Huia Ridge Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Ian Wells Track	Partially open (from Piha Road to Dam)	Track proposed to remain partially open (from Piha Road to Dam) and partially closed (between Dam and Cutty Grass Track).
Incline Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Kakamatua Inlet Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Kakamatua Ridge Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Kauri Grove Track	Closed	Part of the track is proposed for future work programme (between Winstone Track and Connect Track). Part of the track is proposed to remain closed (between Winstone Track and Piha Road).
Kura Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
La Trobe Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Lower Kauri Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Lower Nihotupu Dam Road	Closed	Part of the track is proposed for future work programme (between Pipeline Road and Huia Road). Part of the track is proposed to remain closed (between Pipeline Road and Hamilton Track).
Manukau Bar View Walk	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Marguerite Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Maungaroa Ridge Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
McElwain Lookout Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
McKenzie Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Odlin Timber Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Old Coach Road Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed

Opanuku Pipeline Track	Closed	Part of the track is proposed for future work programme (from Mountain Road to the campground). Part of the track is proposed to remain closed (from the campground to Christian Road).
Peripatus Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Piha Valley Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Pipeline Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Pole Line Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Pukematekeo Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Quarry Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Rangemore Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
RGB Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Ridge Road Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Sharp Bush Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Simla Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Sisam Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Smyth Ridge Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Spragg Bush Walk	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Summit Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Swanson Pipeline Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Taraire Track	Partially open (from road to waterfall)	Track to remain partially open (from road to waterfall only). Part of track proposed to remain closed (from the Waterfall to La Trobe Track).
Tom Thumb By-Pass Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Tom Thumb Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Twin Peaks Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Upper Huia Dam Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Wainamu Bush Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Waitakere Tramline Walk	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Waitoru Reserve Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Walker Ridge Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
West Tunnel Mouth Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed
Winstone Track	Closed	Part of the track is proposed for future work programme (from Ussher Track to Kauri Grove Track). Part of track proposed to remain closed (from Kauri Grove Track to Home Track).
Zion Ridge Track	Closed	Track proposed to remain closed

The following tracks will remain permanently closed.

Track name	Current status - Jan 2019	Future track status
Bob Gordon Track	Permanently closed	Track will remain permanently closed
Lucy Cranwell Track	Permanently closed	Track will remain permanently closed
Nihotupu Ridge Track	Permanently closed	Track will remain permanently closed
Nugget Track	Permanently closed	Track will remain permanently closed
Robinson Ridge Track	Permanently closed	Track will remain permanently closed
Taumata Track	Permanently closed	Track will remain permanently closed
Walker Kauri Track	Permanently closed	Track will remain permanently closed



#### Have your say on the track plan for Waitākere Ranges Regional Park

In May 2018, Auckland Council closed the forested areas of the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park, with some exemptions where a Controlled Area Notice is in place. This significant decision was made to increase protection of our forests from kauri dieback disease. This decision followed a rāhui placed over Te Waonui ā Tiriwa (the forested area of the Waitākere Ranges) by Te Kawerau ā Maki in December 2017.

More information on the closure is available [here](#)

(<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/environment/plants-animals/pests-weeds/Pages/protect-our-kauri-trees.aspx>)

There is significant demand for recreational opportunity in the Waitākere Ranges and community expectation that further tracks will be reopened. Te Kawerau ā Maki and Auckland Council have been working together to develop a track plan which identifies priorities for track upgrades and re-opening over the next two-five years.

In making the decision to reopen tracks the following has and will continue to be taken into account:

- priority on recreating coastal connectivity, providing for multi-day walking opportunities and kauri-safe access to identified iconic destinations – this is in line with feedback received during public engagement undertaken ahead of the decision to close the forested area of the park
- tracks opened once they are of a standard where they protect and support forest health, in particular prevent the movement of soil to stop the spread of kauri dieback both within and out of the park,
- avoid high value non-symptomatic kauri ecosystems, and

provide a range of recreational opportunities that where possible are concentrated to the forest edge.

It is envisaged that further work will be required to manage changing visitor demands to the Waitākere Ranges, including rationalisation of the track network. This will be considered as part of the review of the Regional Parks Management Plan in 2020.

The 2019 work programme has been confirmed, with design and/or construction beginning in this period.

We are seeking community feedback on priorities for track upgrades and reopening beyond the current work programme. The current and proposed future work programmes are outlined in the accompanying map and list.

Following this community consultation we will consider the feedback received and finalise our track plan.

#### **Ngā korero muna - Important privacy information**

All personal information that you provide in this submission will be held and protected by Auckland Council in accordance with our privacy policy (available at [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/privacy](http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/privacy) (<http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/privacy>) and at our libraries and service centres) and with the Privacy Act 1993. Our privacy policy explains how we may use and share your personal information in relation to any interaction you have with the council, and how you can access and correct that information. We recommend you familiarise yourself with this policy.

### **Page 1**

## **Your contact details**

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Your feedback (including your name) will be publicly available in Auckland Council reports and online, but your contact details will be kept private.

#### **1A Full name**

First name

Last name

#### **1B Are you giving feedback on behalf of a club or organisation? \***

☐ Yes - I am the official spokesperson for the organisation

☐ No - these are my own personal views

If your answer to question 1B.Club or Organisation is "Yes - I am the official spokesperson for the organisation" then answer this question

If your answer to question 1B.Club or Organisation is "Yes - I am the official spokesperson for the organisation" then this question is mandatory

#### **1C Name of club or organisation**

1D Email address

1E Postal address

Street address

Suburb

City

Postcode

1F Your Local Board:

[Check here](#)

(<http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/en/aboutcouncil/representativesbodies/localboards/pages/findyourwardandlocalboard.asp>)

- ☐ Albert-Eden
- ☐ Devonport-Takapuna
- ☐ Franklin
- ☐ Great Barrier
- ☐ Henderson-Massey
- ☐ Hibiscus and Bays
- ☐ Howick
- ☐ Kaipatiki
- ☐ Mangere-Otahuhu
- ☐ Manurewa
- ☐ Maungakiekie-Tamaki
- ☐ Orakei
- ☐ Otara-Papatoetoe
- ☐ Papakura
- ☐ Puketapapa
- ☐ Rodney
- ☐ Upper Harbour
- ☐ Waiheke
- ☐ Waitakere Ranges
- ☐ Waitemata
- ☐ Whau

☐

Outside Auckland

☐

Don't Know

If your answer to question 1F.Local Board is "Don't Know" and you didn't answer question 1E.Postal address.ii then answer this question

1G If you do not know which local board area you live in, please tell us the suburb you live in

Page 2

**2A Which describes your interest in the Waitakere Ranges?**

*Please select all that apply*

- ☐ I live in or near the ranges
- ☐ It is a place I like to visit for recreational purposes
- ☐ I am passionate about conservation of this area
- ☐ I am part of a business that operates in the area

If your answer to question 2A includes "I am part of a business that operates in the area" then answer this question

**2B What is the impact of the proposed track strategy on your business? \***

- ☐ No impact
- ☐ Positive impact once plan is complete
- ☐ Negative impact once plan is complete



Other

If your answer to question 2A includes "I am part of a business that operates in the area" then answer this question

**2C Please further describe the impact on your business:**

**2D How often do you visit the Waitakere Ranges Regional Park?**

- ☐ Daily
- ☐ Weekly
- ☐ Monthly
- ☐ 3-4 times a year
- ☐ Less often
- ☐ Never

**Page 3**

Please take a look at the [map \(https://engagemedia.azureedge.net/files/file/BI9Sa2QL9U6l6QjWf13YRA\)](https://engagemedia.azureedge.net/files/file/BI9Sa2QL9U6l6QjWf13YRA) and [track list \(https://engagemedia.azureedge.net/files/file/vwaeXJYeI0OrUQjWf13m7Q\)](https://engagemedia.azureedge.net/files/file/vwaeXJYeI0OrUQjWf13m7Q) and think about the work programme before answering the next questions.

**3A Does the proposed track plan provide a good balance of recreation experiences and forest health?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

**3B Tell us more about why you agree/disagree with the tracks shown in the plan:**

**3C Are there any specific tracks that are not currently in the future work programme that you think should be included?**

☐ Yes

☐ No

If your answer to question 3C is "Yes" then answer this question

**3D Please name specific tracks and explain reasons why you consider these should be included.**

**3E Of the tracks identified in the future work programme, are there any that you would particularly like to see prioritised?**

**3F Are there any specific tracks that are currently in the future work programme that you think should be removed?**

**3G Do you have any other feedback?**

**3H Click below to upload any supporting documents you would like to include with your submission.**

Please attach the required Documents

**3I Do you want to be kept informed about this issue via email?**

☐ Yes

☐ No

If your answer to question 3I is "Yes" and you didn't answer question 1D.Email then answer this question

**3J Please enter your email address \***

#### Page 4

We have a few optional questions which will help us understand a bit more about you. Please note, the following questions help us understand which groups of the community are engaging with council.

All questions are optional and, again, all personal information will remain private.

**4A What gender do you identify as?**

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Gender diverse

**4B Which of the following best describes the age group you belong to?**

- ☐ 14 years or under
- ☐ 15-24 years
- ☐ 25-34 years
- ☐ 35-44 years
- ☐ 45-54 years
- ☐ 55-64 years
- ☐ 65-74 years
- ☐ 75 years or over

**4C What ethnicity/ethnicities do you identify with?**

- ☐ Pakeha/NZ European
- ☐ Māori
- ☐ Samoan
- ☐ Cook Islands Maori
- ☐ Tongan
- ☐ Chinese
- ☐ South East Asian
- ☐ Korean
- ☐ Indian

☐

Other - please specify

**4D Auckland Council newsletters - to subscribe to any council newsletters, please tick which newsletters you would like to receive. Tick all that apply:**

- ☐ Waitakere Ranges greenways plan - updates on walking and cycling projects
- ☐ Have Your Say– all the updates on engagement activities at Auckland Council
- ☐ People's Panel – a quick and easy way for Aucklanders to have their say on council
- ☐ OurAuckland – your weekly guide to what's happening across the region

If you answered question 4D. Newsletters and you didn't answer question 1D. Email and you didn't answer question 3J then answer this question

**4E Please provide your email address for us to send you sign up information.**

**Thank you for your feedback.**

This consultation will close on **14 March 2019**.

We are currently analysing all the feedback received. Council staff will prepare a report on submissions received. This will be used to consider changes to the draft Waitakere Ranges Regional Park Track Reopening Plan.

The feedback report and a copy of the decision will be made public on the council website once finalised.

Thank you for your interest in this important issue.