

December 2025

Winstone Aggregates Belmont Quarry Development Land Exchange Proposal Recreation Assessment



**Winstone Aggregates
Belmont Quarry Development
Land Exchange Proposal
Recreation Assessment**

Prepared by [REDACTED]
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December 2025
Final

Belmont Quarry Development Land Exchange Proposal

Recreation Assessment

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1 Executive Summary

This report assesses the costs and benefits to recreation of a proposed land exchange between Winstone Aggregates (Winstone) and the Department of Conservation (DOC). The exchange will support the continued functioning of Winstone's Belmont Quarry and is intended to ensure a net gain in regional ecological values. Just over 34 ha of land currently owned by Winstone adjacent to Belmont Regional Park ('DOC gets') (in four blocks) is proposed to be exchanged for a 23.3 ha block within the Park ('DOC gives') (see Appendix 1). The latter is proposed to be used for an overburden disposal area (OBDA).

I confirm that, in my capacity as author of this report, I have read and agree to abide by the Environment Court of New Zealand's Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses Practice Note 2023. This assessment is based on an extensive review of recreational use of the Buchanan Road Tramping Track by Xyst (Appendix 2), and a site visit and review by the report author (CV in Appendix 4).

Recreation value of the Winstone land (DOC gets) is confined to approximately 33 m of the Dry Creek Loop Track on the Dry Creek exchange block, enabled by an existing public right of way.

The main recreation feature of the Regional Park land to be exchanged (DOC gives) is a 400 m section of 4WD power pylon access track (the 'utility track') which bifurcates from and parallels 240 m of the Buchanan Road Tramping Track. A visitor counter temporarily installed on the utility track gave an annual estimate of use of 6570. By comparison, the 2024 visitor count for the Cornish Street entrance to Belmont Regional Park was 414,100. The proposal will not change the level of activity on the Buchanan Road Tramping Track. A recreation manager would not normally maintain the utility track as a stand-alone experience due to the cost and lack of need. As the utility track adds nothing to the Buchanan Road Tramping Track, besides a very minor alternative route, and is not marked on the ground as the Track route, its recreation value must be considered as low.

This assessment finds that at the Regional Park scale the loss of the utility track is immaterial. There is no effect on the ability to use the Buchanan Road Tramping Track, access to Boulder Hill or the Puke Ariki / Haywards Korokoro Traverse. If a track user follows the utility track on the Buchanan Road Tramping Track they extend their travel by 160 m on a 4.14 km route. There is no gain in views or a difference in experience, apart from a slightly longer route and a minor decrease in gradient. Considering the general gradient of the Track and its distance, these differences are insignificant.

Table 1 presents a summary of the comparative recreation values of the four blocks forming the exchange package, as per the requirements of clauses 24(a) and 26(1)(a) of Schedule 6 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024.

A right of way for the purpose of conservation activities and maintenance by DOC is proposed to access the Southern Gully block from Liverton Road, and will not provide public access from the south.

The comparative value of the proposed land exchange at the Regional Park level is for low-recreation-value land ('DOC gets') for low-recreation-value land ('DOC gives'). There is no measurable gain or loss at the Regional Park scale.

Table 1: Summary of comparative recreation values

Land unit and exchange	Existing recreation value	Future recreation value
Northern Gully (12.62 ha) DOC gets	Nil – no public access	Low – public access, but no development
Southern Gully (3.94 ha) DOC gets	Nil – no public access	Low – public access, but no development (noting that the proposed ROW from Liverton Rd to the Southern Gully provides only for conservation activities and maintenance by DOC, and public access to the Southern Gully would be via the Northern Gully connected to the Regional Park).
Firth QEII Block (9.60 ha) DOC gets	Nil – no public access	Low – public access, but no development
Dry Creek (7.94 ha) DOC gets	Low – 33 m of public use track	Low – 33 m of public use track
OBDA area (23.2 ha) DOC gives	Low – ancillary utility track	Nil – no public access

2 Introduction

This report is prepared as part of the Belmont Quarry land exchange application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA) and assesses the impact of a proposed land exchange between the Department of Conservation (DOC) and Winstone Aggregates. The exchange will support the functioning of Winstone's Belmont Quarry and is intended to result in a net gain in local conservation values to the Crown, and no loss of recreation amenity within Belmont Regional Park (administered by Greater Wellington (GW)). The Park is managed according to the *Toitū Te Whenua Parks Network Plan 2020-30*.

The areas of land to be exchanged are shown in Appendix 1. Four parcels of land adjacent to the Regional Park are proposed to be added to neighbouring public conservation land. These are currently private land and have little recreational use (confined to 33 m of the Dry Creek Loop Track on a right of way easement on Winstone's Dry Creek block – see Title in Appendix 3). No additional future recreation developments are proposed. Their core value is ecological, besides the Dry Creek Loop Track. The four sites are:

- Northern Gully (12.62 ha) with south-facing hill-slopes and deep gullies with forested stream margins. Parts of the area are within an existing 2.87 ha QEII covenant.
- Southern Gully (3.94 ha) which includes a small north-facing gully connected to Liverton Road via a proposed right of way for conservation activities and maintenance by DOC.
- Firth QEII Block (9.60 ha), a QEII-covenanted parcel located east of the quarry with steep south-facing slopes) in, mostly, native canopy.
- Dry Creek (7.94 ha), surrounding an inoperative quarry which has some remaining industrial activities, with regenerating native cover that links with the adjoining Regional Park. This block contains a small component of the Dry Creek Loop Track within an existing right of way (approximately 33 m).

These parcels will become part of the conservation estate (not Regional Park) and have no existing recreation use beyond the location of the section of Dry Creek Loop Track on the Dry Creek block.

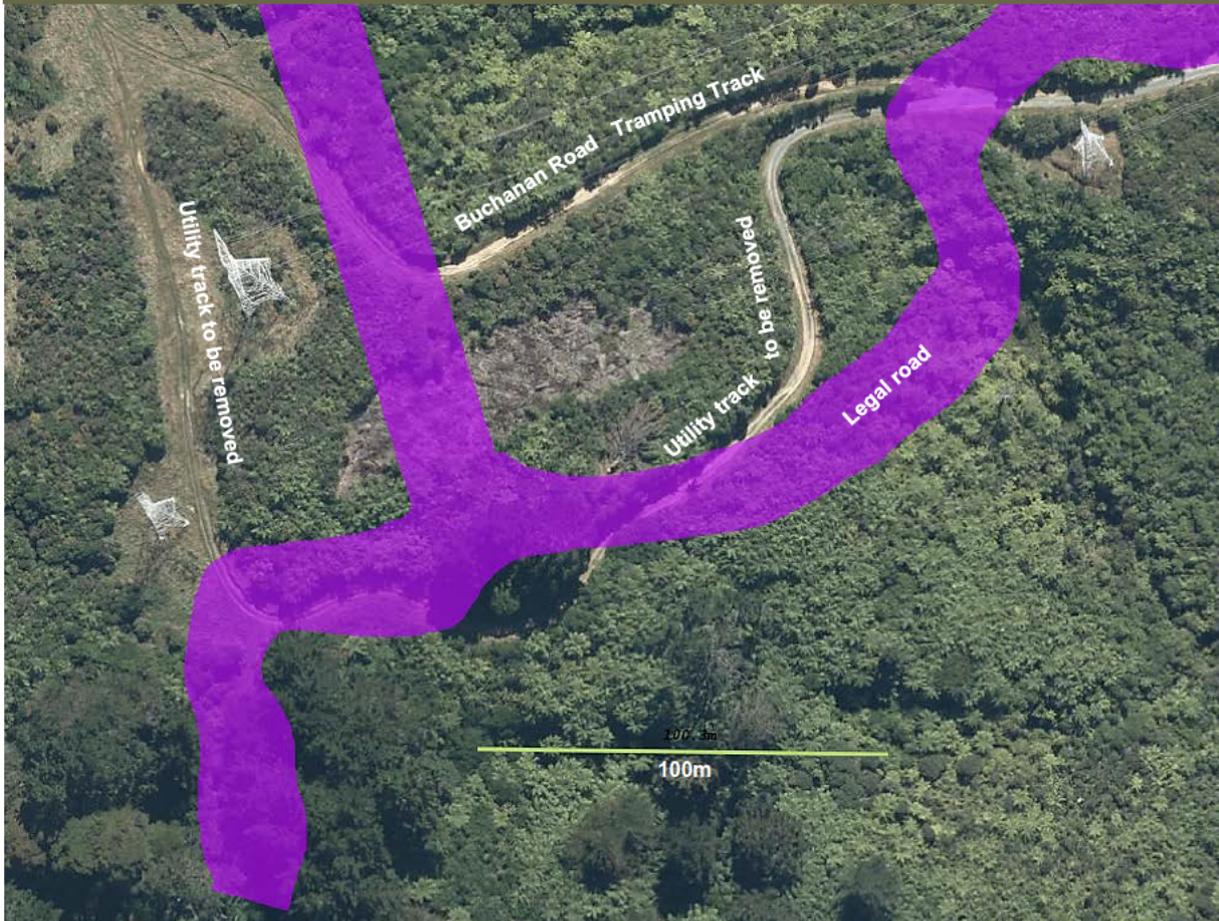
In exchange, Winstone proposes gaining 23.2 ha within the 3,292 ha Belmont Regional Park adjacent to its Belmont Quarry for an overburden disposal area (OBDA). This block includes a mix of regenerating native vegetation and exotic scrub and pines. It is all public land: recreation reserve under the Reserves Act 1977 and approximately 300 m of unformed legal road. The latter – in purple in Figure 1 – is immaterial from a public-access and recreation-value perspective. The unformed legal road does not follow the route of the 4WD power pylon access track, and in this context provides no advantage for recreation values compared with reserve land in the Regional Park.

The proposed OBDA block's main recreation feature is a 400 m section of 4WD power pylon access track which bifurcates from and parallels 240 m of the Buchanan Road Tramping Track (Figure 1), described as the 'utility track'. The Tramping Track is also at 4WD standard to support pylon and park maintenance.

The Buchanan Road Tramping Track begins at Dry Creek and ends at Boulder Hill, a distance of 4.14 km. The Track also forms part of the 21.6 km Puke Ariki / Haywards Korokoro Traverse which runs the length of Belmont Regional Park. The proposal has no effect on the ability to complete either of these opportunities.

The route of the Tramping Track is occasionally mapped as being located on the section of utility track to be removed. On the ground, orange track signs indicate to users that the Tramping Track is on the northern section to be retained. This report therefore considers that the Buchanan Road Tramping Track is located on the shorter track section to be retained.

Figure 1: Buchanan Road Tramping Track, utility track, unformed legal road



2.1 Method

This assessment is based on:

- A site visit,
- Discussions with the project team, and
- Reliance on a comprehensive review of the recreation values of the setting carried out by Xyst and attached to this report as Appendix 2. The key findings of that review are summarised in the following section of this report.

3 Setting description – recreation values

This section summarises the recreation values of the OBDA. A full description prepared by Xyst is included in Appendix 2. That recreation values assessment is based on:

- To quantify use, the temporary installation of a visitor counter on Buchanan Road Tramping Track east of the bifurcation (9 July 2025 to 9 September 2025), and reference to Strava data,¹
- User interviews,
- Site visits, and
- Review of GW parks and recreation policies and strategies, and those of DOC and Hutt City Council.

The key findings are:

- An estimate of 18 uses per day for the Buchanan Road Tramping Track (6570 annually), 59% of whom are estimated to use the Tramping Track, and 41% the utility track to be removed.
- GW's track counters at other locations within Belmont Regional Park give annual use estimates (2024) of, for example, 361,500 at the Hill Road Entrance, 414,100 at the Cornish Street Entrance, and 29,400 at the Dry Creek entrance.²
- Walking, running and tramping are the most popular uses of the Tramping Track. Over the period January 2025 to September 2025 a total of 21 organised tramping trips into the Regional Park were scheduled by tramping clubs, and identified online. Of these, two were the Puke Ariki Traverse originating from Dry Creek and one was the Buchanan Road Tramping Track – Dry Creek Loop.
- The Buchanan Road Tramping Track is popular for dog walking (on-lead) given the good access from the Dry Creek entrance; providing a good exercise opportunity in a relatively remote setting compared with other dog walking opportunities in the Hutt Valley which are generally located along the Hutt River or on flat sites.
- The Tramping Track is graded as an advanced mountain biking trail used by cross-country mountain bikers to, in the main, access or descend from Boulder Hill, or for longer routes across Belmont Regional Park or as part of the Dry Creek Loop. The Track is considered difficult because of the elevation gain and sustained climb. The majority of mountain biking activity in the Regional Park occurs at its Stratton Street entrance where there are a series of purpose-built mountain biking trails in proximity to residential areas. Mountain biking on the Tramping Track is reported as far more infrequent than pedestrian activities.

¹ Strava is a social media application which uses GPS records from subscribers' smartphones and other devices uploaded to a central database, allowing speed and time comparisons with other cyclists, runners, walkers and trampers (for example), and the monitoring of individual activity or training targets. While the service is popular with professional athletes, its membership is dominated by casual recreation participants. Strava indicated that it had 50 million international users in early 2020 (80% outside the US) with an additional million joining per month, and in 2024 the company reported 120 million users. It is popular amongst regular cyclists and runners, but is also used by a wide variety of other pursuits, such as tramping, rowing, swimming and skiing.

An international comparison between different forms of data-gathering in 2016 showed a range of 1% to 12% of users recording their activity on Strava; and that this is growing. Comparisons between track counter data and Strava records undertaken by the author of this report in Nelson suggest levels of Strava adoption in relatively low-use settings as high as 73% for cyclists and 26% for pedestrians. More accessible tracks appeared to have a lower (but still high) uptake of around 40% for cyclists and 7% for pedestrians. Such response rates would compare favourably to an on-site intercept survey of users in an outdoor setting, particularly since the Strava data are collected over all seasons and all day (an intercept survey would normally only cover relatively short time periods and be confined to specific interception points). Nevertheless, caution needs to be applied to the use of Strava data as they show participation by only Strava members. There will be an inherent bias toward the more competitive and tech-savvy, and some data accumulate from users staying logged in when they are doing other activities, such as driving. Strava is therefore a little like a tag and release programme. Strava essentially tags several thousand active people in an area and monitors where and how they recreate.

² [REDACTED] Western Parks Team Leader, pers comm, Oct 2025, with [REDACTED]

- Horse riding within the Regional Park requires an annual permit, with, at July 2025, 26 issued. GW estimates between 50-100 horse rides per annum using the Dry Creek area. The vast majority of horse-riding activity occurs from the Park's Hill Road entrance, with rides taking place towards and to Boulder Hill. Dry Creek is more likely to be used by non-club members or visiting riders. Horse riding on the Tramping Track is reported as far more infrequent than mountain biking or pedestrian activities.
- Trail users appreciate the accessibility of the Dry Creek area and the Buchanan Road Tramping Track from residential Hutt Valley. The challenge of the climb to Boulder Hill is a key attraction for regular runners and dog walkers, along with the expansive views.
- No recreation activities were recorded on the OBDA beyond the utilities track, and the recreation value beyond the track was considered 'insignificant'.

For context, Figure 2 shows a Strava heatmap for Belmont Regional Park and the Hutt Valley for all pedestrian and cycle activities, with the utility track indicated. The blue heat tracks show cumulative GPS records for Strava users, with the whiter colours indicating the most-used routes. Data are for a 12-month period to September 2025.

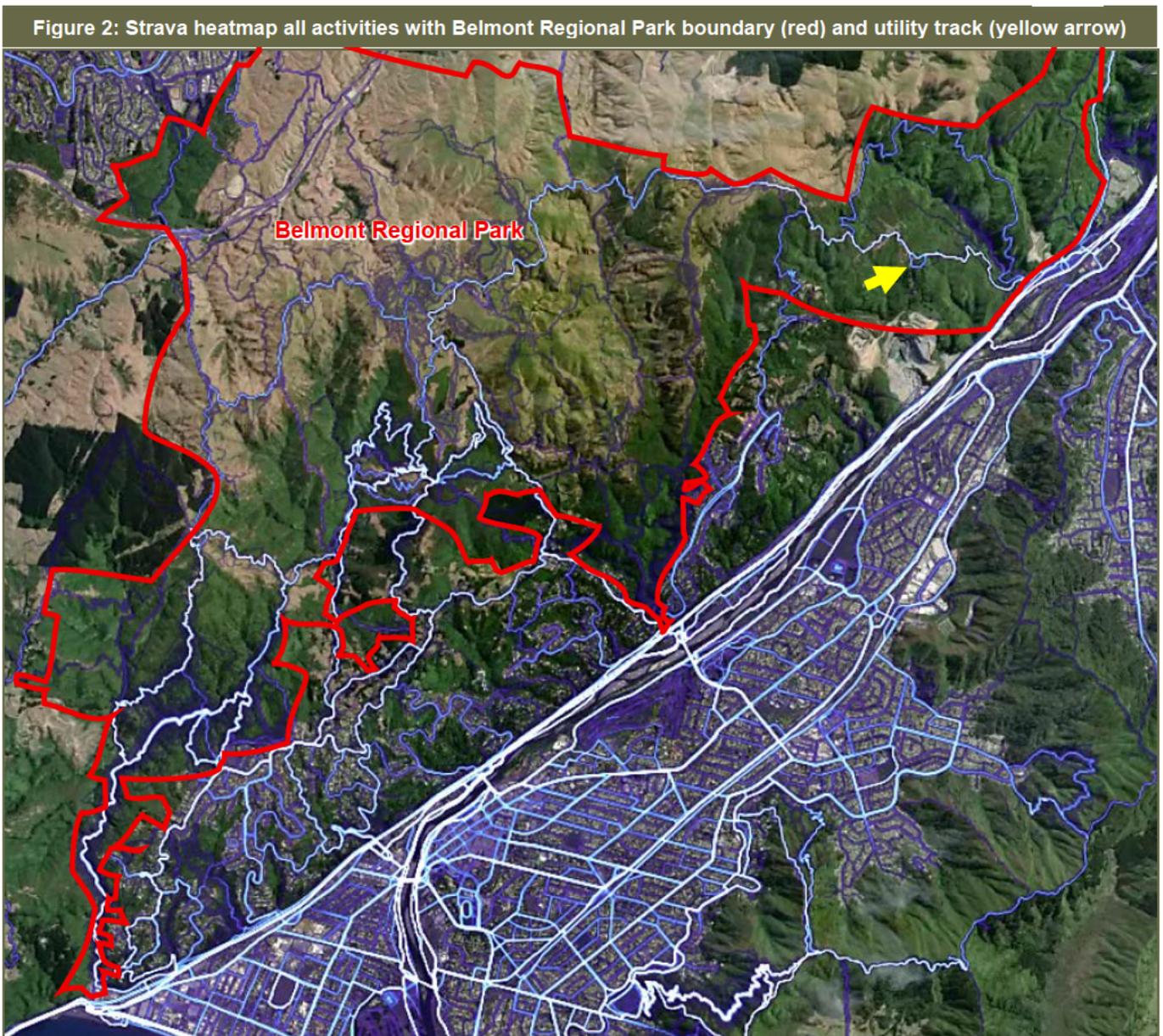
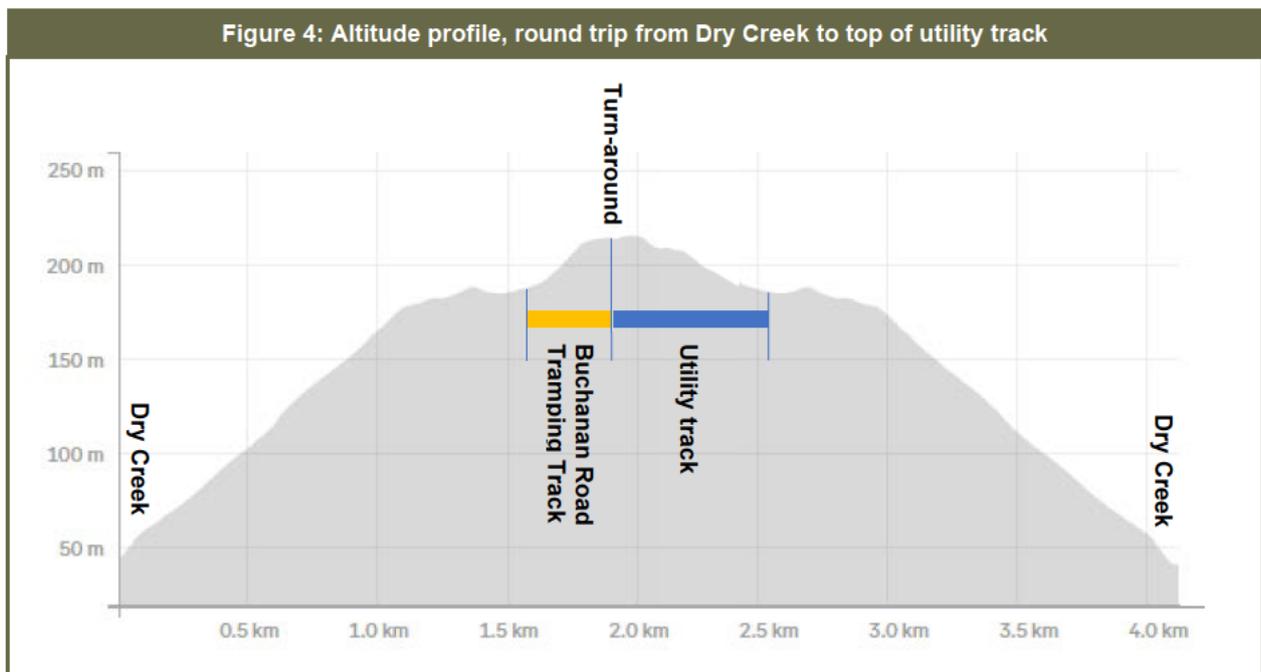


Figure 3 shows, with an orange 'heat', a more detailed view of recorded activity in the Dry Creek area, with the dual use of the Buchanan Road Tramping Track and utility track evident. One activity record is shown to the south of the utility track, which is that of the author of this report. The location of the short section of Dry Creek Loop Track on Winstone land is also indicated.



Figure 4 shows the altitude profile – as recorded by the author's Stava record – of a round trip from Dry Creek to the top of the utility track where it meets the Buchanan Road Tramping Track (see turn-around location in Figure 3). This shows the general steepness of the route, and the distance and gradient

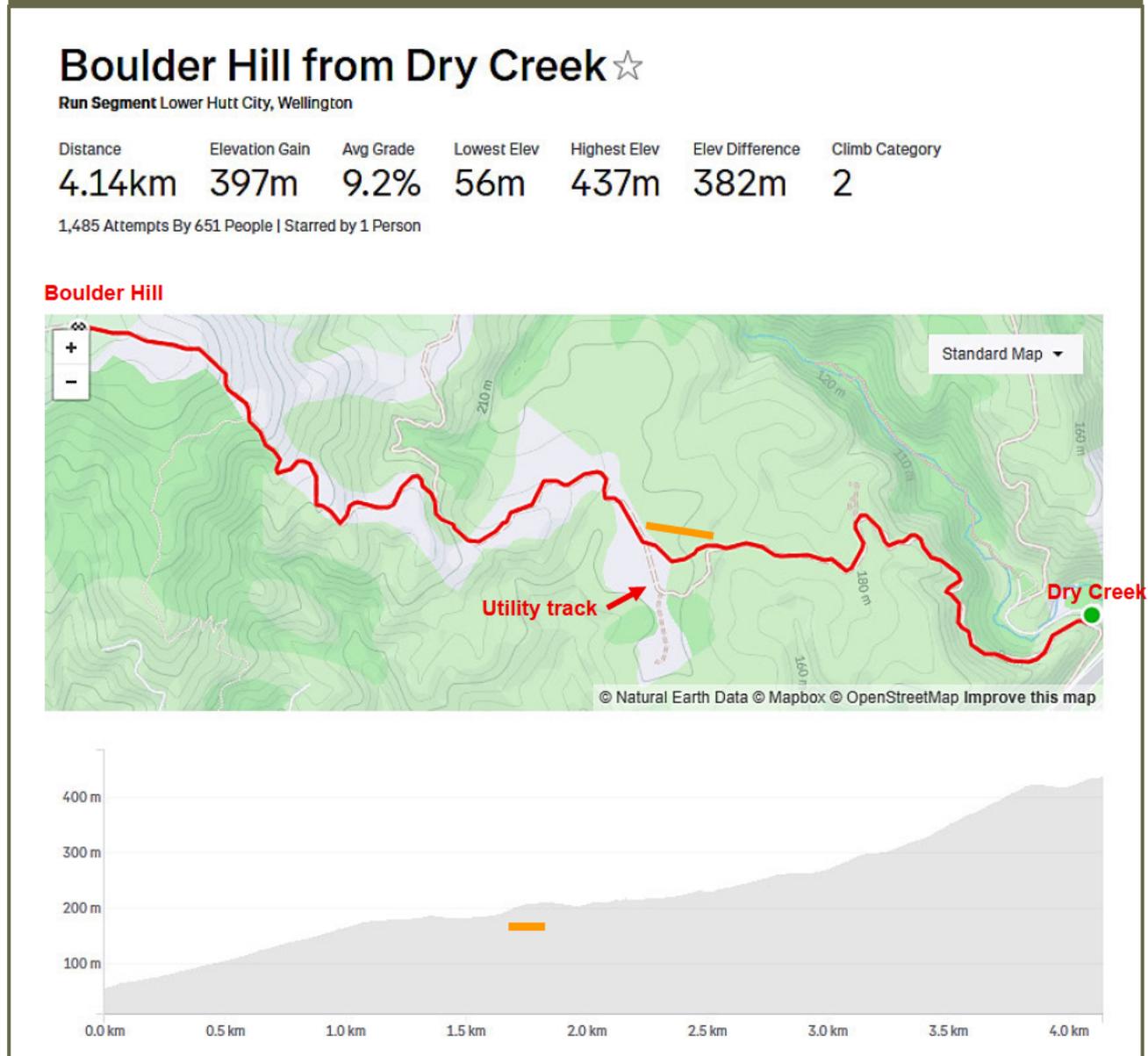


difference between the two options. The Tramping Track section shown in yellow is steeper than the utility track, but no steeper than some other sections of the Tramping Track.

Figure 5 shows the Buchanan Road Tramping Track as recorded on Strava. This shows the dominant recommended running route (in this case) from Dry Creek to Boulder Hill. The affected section of track is shown in orange in both the map and elevation profile. This indicates it as a very minor component of the wider visitor experience.

Note that the reported use in Figure 5 of “1,485 Attempts By 651 People” is for ‘all time’. That is, all recorded activity dating from approximately 2014.

Figure 5: Stava segment with grade profile for Buchanan Road Tramping Track showing affected section



4 Effects assessment and conclusion

This section reviews the effects of the loss of the proposed OBDA on the recreation values of the Belmont Regional Park. Specifically, the effect is the loss of a 400 m utility track adjacent to a shorter formal pedestrian and cycle track on the OBDA block (DOC gives) and ensuring that all of the Dry Creek Loop Track lies on public land on the Dry Creek block (DOC gets).

At the Regional Park scale, the loss of the utility track section is immaterial. There is no effect on the ability to use the Buchanan Road Tramping Track, access to Boulder Hill or the Puke Ariki / Haywards Korokoro Traverse. If a track user follows the utility track on the Buchanan Road Tramping Track they extend their travel by 160 m on a 4.14 km route. There is no gain in views or a difference in experience, apart from a slightly longer route and a minor decrease in gradient. Considering the general gradient of the Track and its distance, these differences are insignificant.

A recreation manager would not normally maintain the utility track as a stand-alone experience due to the cost and lack of need. As the utility track adds nothing to the Buchanan Road Tramping Track, besides a very minor alternative, and is not marked on the ground as the Track route, its recreation value must be considered as low.

The comparative value of the proposed land exchange at the Regional Park level is for low-recreation-value land ('DOC gets') for low-recreation-value land ('DOC gives'). There is no measurable gain or loss at the Regional Park scale.

Table 1 in the Executive Summary presents a review of the comparative recreation values of the four blocks forming the exchange package, as per the requirements of clauses 24(a) and 26(1)(a) of Schedule 6 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024.

Appendix 1: Belmont Quarry Land Exchange Concept Plan

Appendix 2: Xyst recreation values assessment



Recreation Values Review for Land Exchange Proposal

Belmont Quarry Development

Prepared for Winstone Aggregates by Xyst Limited

19 September 2025

Everything parks, recreation, and community

Tēnā koutou katoa

This report has been prepared for the Winstone Aggregates by [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] from Xyst.

Revision History

Rev.	Date	Author	Notes
1.0	20/07/2025	[REDACTED]	Working draft for review
2.0	05/08/2025	[REDACTED]	Revised following review
3.0	04/09/2025	[REDACTED]	Revised following review
4.0	19/09/2025	[REDACTED]	Final

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Abbreviations and definitions

AEE	Assessment of Environmental Effects
AMSL	Above mean sea level
BAMBA	Belmont Area Mountain Bike Association
DOC	Department of Conservation
GWRC	Greater Wellington Regional Council
HCC	Hutt City Council
OBDA	Overburden Disposal Area
PIR	Passive Infrared Sensor
TAs	Territorial Authorities
SH	State Highway
YTD	Year to date

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report describes the recreation uses and values of the land to be considered in Winstone Aggregates land exchange in their FTAA Application under section 33(1) of the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024.
2. The proposed land exchange consists of Crown-owned land proposed to be transferred to Winstone (DOC-gives) and Fletcher-owned land proposed to be added to the conservation estate (DOC-gets), consistent with the definition in clause 22(1) of Schedule 6 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024.
3. The Crown-owned land proposed to be transferred to Winstone is administered by Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) under an appointment to control and manage for recreation purposes under section 28 of the Reserves Act 1977¹.
4. There is some recreational use of the land within the proposed OBDA. A formed utility road is used by some walkers and riders as an alternative route to the formed and marked Buchanans Road tramping track which forms part of the Puke Ariki traverse. The Buchanans Road tramping track/ Puke Ariki traverse is located outside of the proposed OBDA area. It is estimated that there were an average of 18.3 uses² of the Buchanans Road tramping track per day in 2024 with 41% of use being on the utility road.
5. The other recreational use of the land within the proposed OBDA is associated with people exploring "off-track" including exploring various pest control lines developed by GWRC. This use is very minor.

¹ New Zealand Gazette 1991 No.80 page 1765

² A "use" being a activity along a section of track by a person or vehicle. A return journey along the same route would create two "uses" by the one person.

INTRODUCTION

6. Winstone Aggregates, a Division of Fletcher Concrete & Infrastructure Ltd, (Winstones) has applied under the Fast Track Legislation to establish a new overburden disposal area (OBDA) adjacent to the existing Belmont Quarry to enable the extraction of approximately 20 million cubic metres of aggregate, including land exchange with the Department of Conservation, earthworks, and establishing new access roads.
7. This report provides a description of the recreation values of the land exchange component of the FTAA Application under section 33(1) of the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024.
8. The Crown-owned land proposed to be transferred to Winstone is administered by GWRC Council under an appointment to control and manage for recreation purposes under section 28 of the Reserves Act 1977³.
9. GWRC manages the land as part of the Belmont Regional Park. GWRC Council has prepared a reserve management plan for the land known as the Greater Wellington — Toitū Te Whenua Parks Network Plan 2020-2030.
10. This report describes the recreation values of the study area the Crown-owned land proposed to be transferred to Winstone (DOC-gives).
11. The assessment is based on:
 - Three site visits to the study area in June, July, August and September 2025 to gain understanding of the setting, access and recreational use of the area;
 - Temporary PIR remote sensor counts of activity on the Buchanan Road Tramping Track obtained from 9 July to 9 September 2025;
 - Review of Strava Metro⁴ user data;
 - Literature review; and
 - Interviews with recreational users of the study area and special interest groups.

DOC Gives (23.2 ha)

12. The land proposed to be transferred to Winstone comprises approximately 23.2 hectares of Crown-owned reserve land within Belmont Regional Park. The area adjoins the existing quarry footprint and includes a series of ridgelines and gullies with regenerating shrubland, mānuka scrub, and mahoe-tree fern forest. A small wetland is also present.

³ New Zealand Gazette 1991 No.80 page 1765

⁴ Strava Metro is a software application that aggregates data from people who track their activity with their phone, GPS or wearable fitness device. It enables the visualisation and analysis of usage of a particular area to estimate likely actual usage. This report includes aggregated and de-identified data from Strava Metro.

13. Parts of the block contain exotic-dominated vegetation, including gorse and other woody weeds, reflecting its modified condition. A legal (paper) road traverses the site, although no formed access exists and would be topographically difficult to construct.
14. Utility tracks used by Transpower are also features of this area.
15. The Buchanans Road tramping track crosses the northernmost extent of the OBDA exchange area. There is also a paper road (known as Buchanans Road) vested in Hutt City Council that bisects Part Section 261 Hutt District – shown below. The paper road corridor is excluded from the exchange as it is not land owned by DOC.
16. *Figure 1* shows the land which forms the footprint for the proposed OBDA.

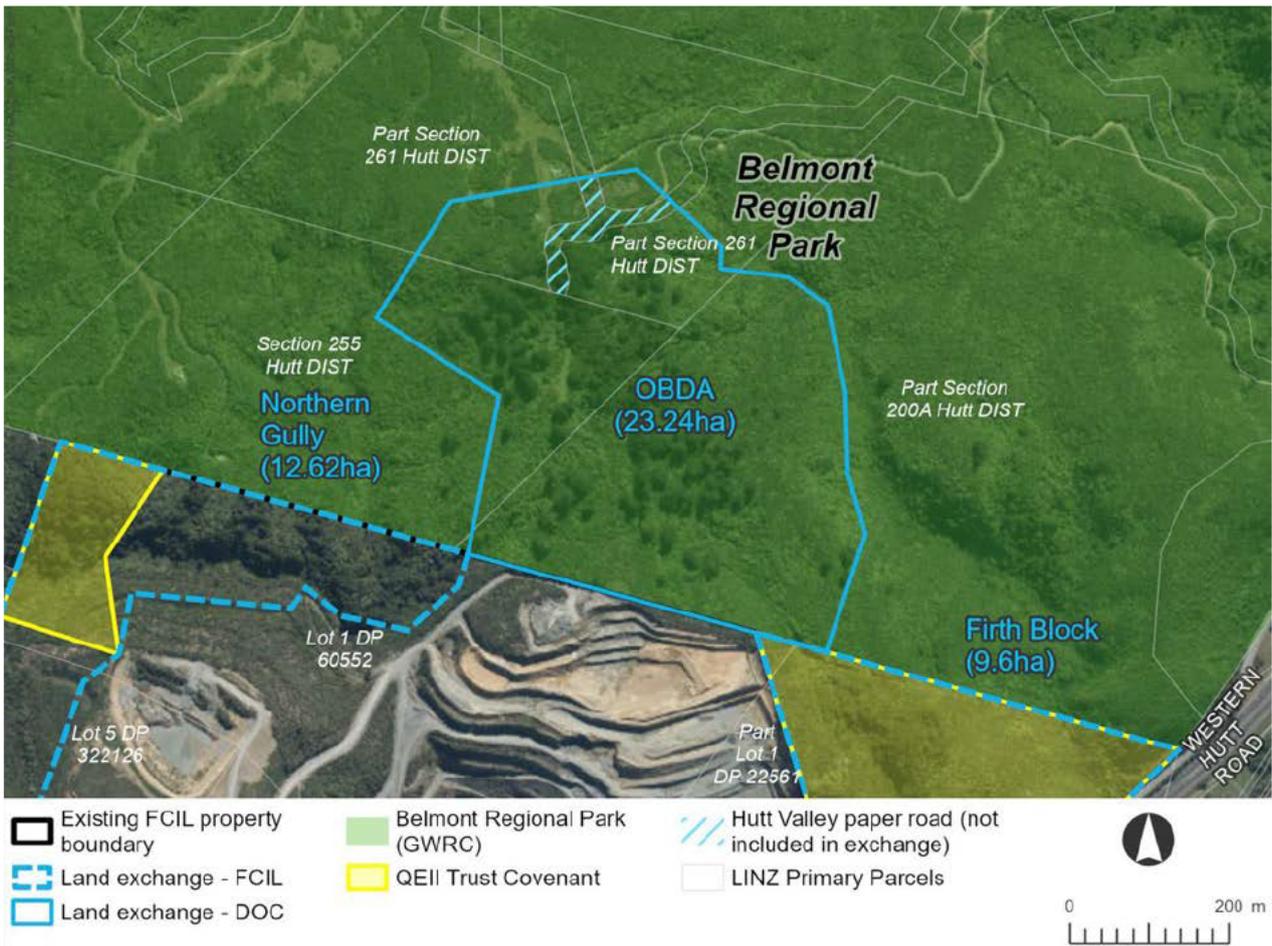


Figure 1 Proposed OBDA area (DOC-gives)

17. The land owned by DOC is set out below:

Legal description	Area (ha)	Statute	Owner
Part Section 200A Hutt DIST (3836284)	48.0305	Recreation Reserve New Zealand Gazette 1989 p 2757	Crown (Department of Conservation)
Section 255 Hutt DIST (3864752)	21.2553	Set apart as a reserve for recreation purposes. New Zealand Gazette 1989 p 2757 Subject to the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977.	
Part Section 261 Hutt DIST (4020004)	18.6736	Recreation Reserve New Zealand Gazette 1989 p 2757	

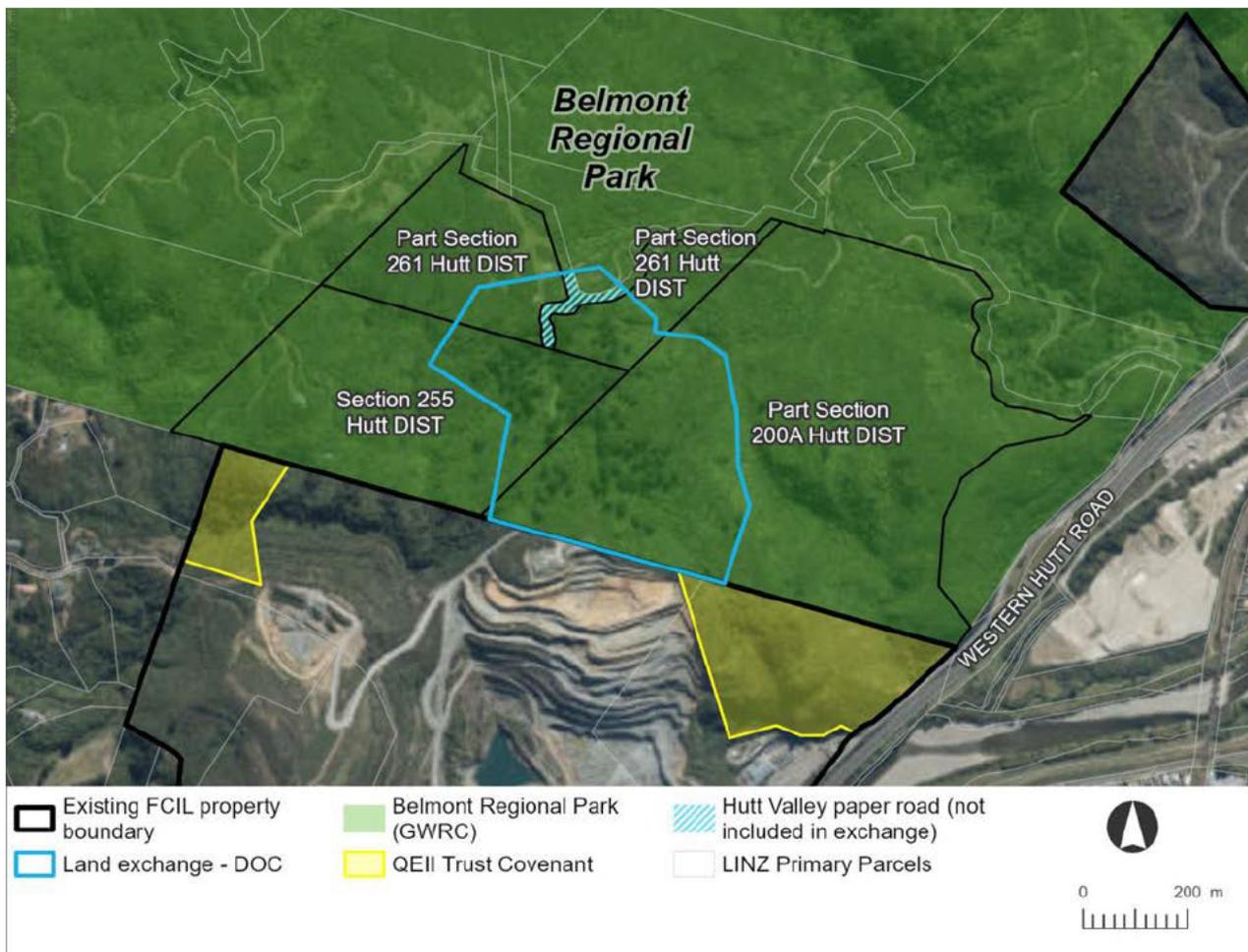


Figure 2 Crown land holdings relevant to the land exchange

SITE CONTEXT

18. Belmont Regional Park is located in the hill country between Porirua and the Hutt Valley). The park comprises steep hills and valleys. Belmont Trig (457 metres) is the highest point of the park. Most of the park is pastureland. Some of the steeper slopes and gullies are revegetating in gorse and native bush. Native vegetation clads the Korokoro and Dry Creek Valleys.
19. The park offers wide open spaces and panoramic hilltop views. A range of recreational activities occur in the park, including walking, running, hiking, orienteering, horse riding, mountain biking, picnicking, camping and swimming.
20. On the eastern side of the park, mountain biking activity is centred on the Stratton Street area and horse-riding activity is centred on the Hill Crescent entrance where the Belmont Pony Club is located. Outside of these hubs, mountain biking and horse riding does occur but in significantly lower numbers. The proximity of the park to the major population centres of the Wellington region provides a semi-rural experience for park visitors.
21. The Dry Creek entrance to the park is one of 11 entrances to the park. The Dry Creek entrance is open during daylight hours and contains camping facilities, toilets and park visitor information. It is the trail head for three trails being the Buchanans Road tramping track, Dry Creek loop and Waterfall track.

RECREATIONAL TRAILS IN THE VICINITY OF THE OBDA

Puke Ariki Traverse/Belmont cross-park route

22. The Puke Ariki traverse (See Figure 6 as highlighted in yellow) is promoted as a “rewarding full-day scenic walk or ride that traverses the length of Belmont Regional Park”⁵. The full traverse takes between 7-8 hours and covers some 21.8km, starting at the Dry Creek Campsite and following the Buchanans Road tramping track, Boulder Hill tramping track, Dress Circle tramping track and Korokoro Stream before arriving at the Cornish Street entrance. It is used by walkers and mountain bikers and is graded as Advanced tramping track or Expert: Grade 5 Mountain biking. The traverse can be travelled in either direction.
23. A relatively unique aspect of the Puke Ariki Traverse is that it can be readily accessed by public transport with the Dry Creek entrance being a 15-minute walk from the Manor Park railway station.

⁵ <https://www.wellingtonnz.com/visit/trails/belmont-regional-park/puke-ariki-haywaRoads-korokoro-traverse>

24. The Puke Ariki Traverse is identified by GWRC as a key visitor destination⁶ and as regional trail within the Wellington region by TRC Tourism (2017)⁷.
25. The Buchanans Road tramping track forms part of the Puke Ariki Traverse.

Buchanans Road tramping track

26. The Buchanans Road tramping track is an existing recreational shared use track which starts at the Dry Creek car park and campsite (40m AMSL). From the car park, a short 50m section of track connects to a 4WD road formation (authorised vehicle access only). The route then follows the gravelled road formation climbing steadily through some pockets of existing native forest initially and then through regenerating shrub land for a distance of 950m before gaining a ridge line near a transmission line tower at an elevation of approximately 175m AMSL.
27. The route continues along this ridge line along the gravel road for another 480m at approximately 190m AMSL before an intersection is reached near the proposed OBDA boundary. The distance from the Dry Creek car park to this point is 1.7km with a typical walking time of 45 minutes. As the route follows the well graded, gravel road formation it provides good all-weather recreation opportunity of easy to moderate difficulty.
28. From the intersection there are two available routes; The official marked route of the Buchanans Road tramping track /Puke Ariki Traverse (as shown in *Figure 3* and marked as a light blue dash) climbs directly up the slope on a formed, but unsurfaced, 4WD track for 230m before reaching a small plateau at an elevation of 215m AMSL. I refer to this as the "direct route". This is a formal recreation trail recognised in the management plan and identified on the ground by orange trail markers.
29. An alternative route, which exists/ functions as an informal detour, is via the Transpower utilities track (as shown in *Figure 3* and marked as pink dashes) continues from the intersection for 275m where the gravel road formation ends at elevation on 210m AMSL. From this point, the route follows the unsurfaced 4WD track to meet the official marked route at 215m AMSL. I refer to this as the "alternative route". This is used by Transpower to access pylons for maintenance and is not a formal recreation track.
30. The Buchanans Road tramping track is used primarily by walkers (including those walking dogs which are permitted on-lead) and trail runners. Mountain biking activity also occurs though in lower numbers due to the steep gradient of the trail. Horse riding activity also occurs but this use is relatively low compared to other areas of the park.

⁶ Greater Wellington — Toitū Te Whenua Parks Network Plan 2020-2030 p.18

⁷ Wellington Regional Trails for the Future - A strategic framework for trails in the Wellington Region (2017) TRC Tourism Limited

31. The Buchanans Road tramping track passes within approximately 7m of the proposed OBDA as while a significant portion of the utilities road will be within the proposed OBDA.
32. The Buchanans Road tramping track is the primary access for several walking/running/tramping experiences from the Dry Creek entrance to Belmont Regional Park. These are:
 - i. As a "in and out" route to Boulder Hill
 - ii. As part of the Puke Arika Traverse from Dry Creek to the Cornish Street Entrance near Petone
 - iii. As part of Dry Creek Loop Track, starting from the Dry Creek Entrance and travelling via the Buchanans Road tramping track to the intersection of the Dry Creek loop and returning to the Dry Creek Entrance
 - iv. As part of a walking /running/tramping journeys linking the Dry Creek Entrance with other parks entrances such as the Kaitangata Crescent Entrance, Belmont Road Entrance or Hill Road Entrance

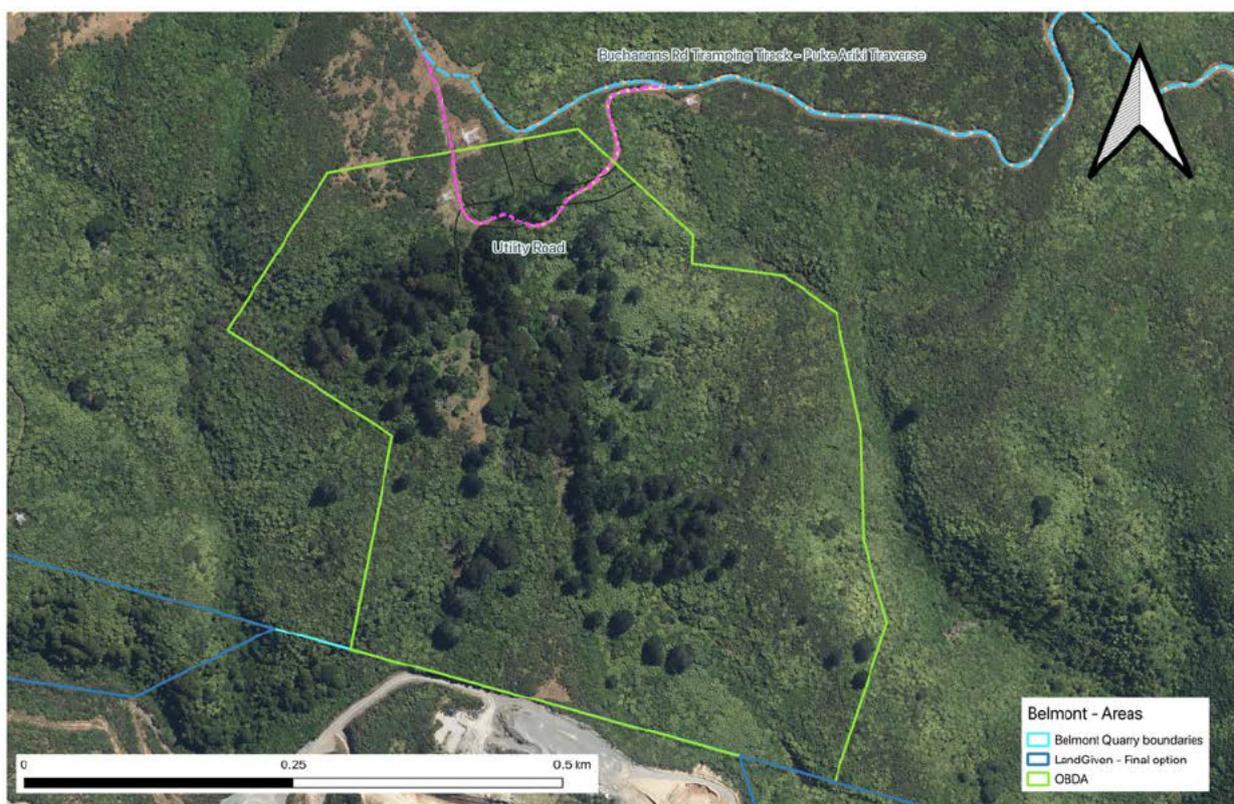


Figure 3 Buchanans Road tramping track (blue) and utility road (pink)

Other trails

Dry Creek Loop Track

33. The Dry Creek loop is an 8km tramping track starting at the Dry Creek car park. It can be traversed in either direction. In clockwise direction, users follow the Buchanans Road tramping track until a junction below the summit of Boulder Hill. The Dry Creek Loop Track is then followed before descending steeply back to the Dry Creek car park.

Waterfall Route

34. The Waterfall Route is described as a "short safe route for a taste of back country tramping". It follows Dry Creek through native bush up to a small waterfall.

Informal trails within the proposed OBDA

35. As discussed in paragraph 29 the utilities road is a gravel road formation which continues south-west to a small clearing amongst wilding pine and macrocarpa trees. The gravel formation ends at this point and the trail then climbs northwards to rejoin the Buchanans Road tramping track.
36. From the clearing, an informal 4WD side track (Figure 4) leads south through the wilding pine and macrocarpa trees to a more open clearing where some bee hives were located at the time of site inspections.



Figure 4 Side track to clearing

37. From the clearing, several GWRC pest control lines descent steeply from the clearing. A recently cleared line heads south and south-west before looping back via stream to the bee hives. A less obvious line heads south-south-east before climbing back to the clearing, and a further branch of this line heads north to exit at the transmission tower near the intersection of Buchanans Road tramping track and the 'alternative route'.
38. One pest control line passes the remains of a small farm building (Figure 5) and fence lines from previous farming activity located about 50m from the clearing on the north-eastern side of the ridge. The wilding conifer species in this area were likely planted as shelter for the buildings.



Figure 5 Remains of farm building (June 2025)

REGIONAL AND LOCAL STRATEGIES

39. This section considers the regional and local strategies which give direction to resource management for local recreation, public access and conservation values and statutory plans which guide the management of the Belmont Regional Park and DOC land in the Wellington Region.

Department of Conservation

40. The Wellington Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) 2019 describes the conservation values present in Wellington and provides guidance for DOC's work in the form of a vision, objectives, outcomes for places, policies and milestones. The CMS is relevant only to the extent that any land acquired by DOC by way of exchange with Winstones may be managed under the CMS.
41. The major themes identified in this CMS are engagement with tangata whenua and the community, partnering with others to deliver conservation and restoration of indigenous biodiversity.
42. The CMS anticipates increased population and domestic and international visitation to the Wellington region requiring that the "management, prioritisation, provision and monitoring of recreation opportunities must be carefully considered". (Pt 1. 3.3, P28).
43. The CMS identifies "Icon" and "Gateway"⁸ destinations in the region that are important for increasing participation in recreation. Belmont Regional Park is not identified as an Icon destination, Gateway destination or 'Local Treasure' in the CMS.
44. The plan contains policies (3.3.2) relating to the role of DOC in contributing to a network of visitor opportunities within the Wellington region, and working with other agencies to enhance connectivity and improve access between public open space and trail networks.
45. Policy 3.3.2.5 states the need to "Avoid, or otherwise minimise, adverse effects on the qualities of peace and natural quiet, solitude and remoteness in places where this is an important feature and expectation of the visitor experience".

⁸ 'Icon destinations' are high profile, popular destinations underpinning national and international tourism, and providing memorable visitor experiences in New Zealand. 'Gateway destinations' are places that introduce New Zealanders to the outdoors and allow them to learn about conservation. 'Local Treasures' are vehicle-accessible, locally valued locations providing recreation opportunities for, and growing connections with, nearby communities.

Hutt City Council

Reserves Strategic Directions 2016 – 2026

46. The Reserves Strategic Directions is a framework for managing and enhancing the Hutt City Council (HCC) reserve network across Hutt City over a ten-year period. Its purpose is to guide the acquisition, development, and disposal of reserve land in response to changing demographics, urban intensification, and environmental challenges. The strategy emphasises the importance of reserves in promoting health and wellbeing, protecting natural and cultural heritage, and fostering community engagement.
47. In relation to Belmont Regional Park, the strategy highlights collaborative management efforts with Greater Wellington Regional Council. Belmont Regional Park is recognised for its ecological corridors, native bush, and cultural heritage features such as historic hilltop sites and pa locations. The park plays a vital role in connecting communities and natural areas, with actions focused on improving track networks between Belmont and the valley floor, enhancing ecological corridors, and promoting pest control and native vegetation restoration.
48. Key initiatives for Belmont include developing north-south trail connections through reserves linking hill suburbs, improving track quality and accessibility, and prioritising the retention of flat reserve areas for neighbourhood use. Belmont Regional Park is cited as an example where HCC-owned land within the park is managed by the Regional Council due to its regional significance (however not all of the land within Belmont Regional Park is owned by HCC, some is owned by GWRC, PCC and/or the Crown). This approach underscores the importance of partnerships and strategic planning in maintaining a resilient and inclusive reserve network that benefits both local communities and the wider region.

Greater Wellington Regional Council

Toitū Te Whenua Parks Network Plan 2020-30

49. There are no recreational opportunities or improvements contemplated by the Toitū Te Whenua/Parks Network Plan for the proposed OBDA area. The emphasis of the Plan in relation to the Dry Creek area in general is the enhancement of the Dry Creek Picnic area (A180), the improvement of accessible trails (A187) and “trail gradient and surface upgrades and realignments to easier standard and to minimise erosion for a wide range of users” (A189). The improvements are all contemplated to occur outside of the OBDA.
50. Continued restoration activity is contemplated in accordance with the Plan’s vision however it is noted that the OBDA is not identified as a priority for restoration in the management plan.
51. The Plan is a composite statutory management plan prepared under the Reserves Act 1977 for eight Regional Parks (including Belmont Regional Park).

52. Public engagement on development of the management plan began in 2018 with the draft reserve management being notified for formal submissions in late June 2020. 390 submissions were received on the draft management plan and the management plan was adopted by GWRC in December 2020.
53. The Plan's **vision** is 'Restoring healthy ecosystems for the benefit of people and nature'. 'He waka eke noa', we're all in this together moving forward.⁹
54. **Core values** are recognised in the Plan.¹⁰ Those specific to recreation are:
- "We provide for a diversity of satisfying and memorable recreation experiences and support full and easy public access to parks"; and
- "We value high quality and diverse recreation experiences for health and wellbeing
- Regional parks are easily accessible and we provide for people of all abilities
 - Park experiences are simple, yet high-quality experiences and are memorable
 - Information about park experiences is readily available and highly useable for visitors
 - Parks feel safe for people to visit and enjoy
 - Spirit of place; the uniqueness is recognised and celebrated
 - We provide storytelling, events and other engagement activities to enable visitors to learn about what is special about places and features within parks
 - We support the economy of parks and beneficial concession/ business activities
 - In the face of ongoing climate change, we plan and manage our facilities for future resilience
 - We support recreation and conservation clubs"
55. The Plan sets out what specific activities are allowed, managed, restricted or prohibited within Belmont Regional Park.
56. Mining, quarrying or mineral exploration activities are prohibited activity in the Belmont Regional Park.¹¹ It is not proposed to quarry within the regional park as the proposed land exchange will remove the proposed OBDA from Belmont Regional Park.
57. The swap, disposal or acquisition of land or assets is a restricted activity in the Belmont Regional Park.¹² The Plan is premised on the exchange process under the Reserves Act 1977 as opposed to the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024.

⁹ p37. Toitū Te Whenua/Parks Network Plan 2020-30

¹⁰ p38-39 Toitū Te Whenua/Parks Network Plan 2020-30

¹¹ p. 202 Toitū Te Whenua/Parks Network Plan 2020-30

¹² p. 200 Toitū Te Whenua/Parks Network Plan 2020-30

58. Track assessment criteria is included in the Plan for the initial assessment of track and trail changes and new developments¹³. Various criteria such as “strategic fit” and “recreation” are given with a variety of considerations offered however there is no guidance as to the weight to be applied to any consideration. It is noted that new trail proposals and significant changes in trails will require preparation of an AEE.
59. The proposed OBDA is within the Belmont-Dry Creek Key Native Ecosystem Area (KNE) but is not identified as a priority for restoration in the management plan (Figure 9).

¹³ p. 207 Toitū Te Whenua Parks Network Plan 2020–30

60. The Plan includes Map 7 showing the exiting park conditions (Figure 6 below), Map 8: Belmont Regional Park potential enhancements (Figure 7 below), Map 9: Belmont potential trail enhancements (Figure 8 below) and Map 10: Belmont restoration priorities (Figure 9 below).

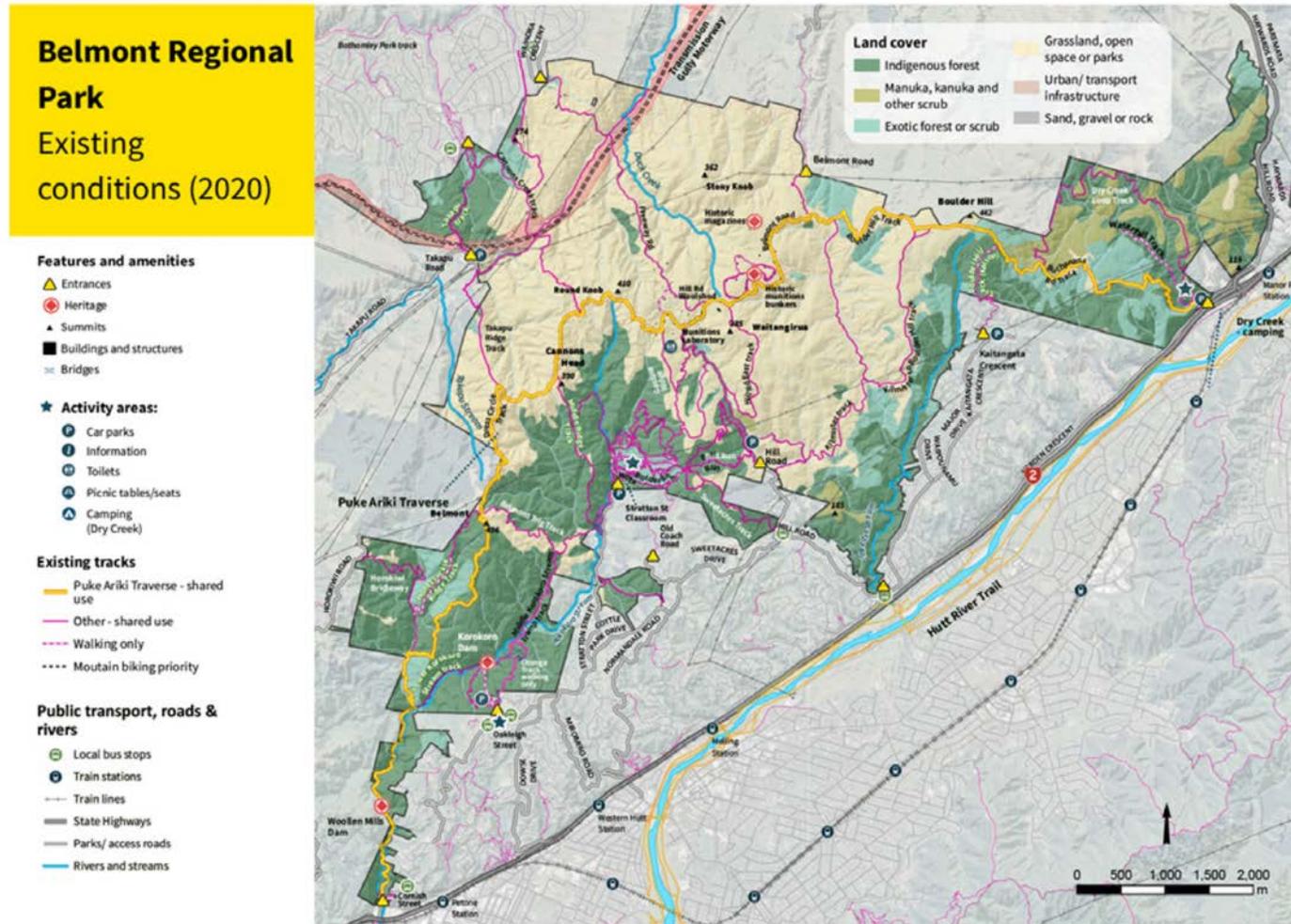


Figure 6 Map 7: Belmont Regional Park existing conditions

Belmont Regional Park Potential enhancements

Key destination

- a. Stratton Street mountain bike hub
- b. Korokoro Valley
- c. Oakleigh Street picnic area
- d. Belmont Taumata
- e. Puke Ariki traverse
- f. Kelson trails and picnic area
- g. Porirua to Hutt Valley & Takapu routes
- h. Hill Road heritage hub
- i. Park buildings and structures
- j. Waitangarua entry hub

Amenity

- A177 North-south connections
- A178 Kelson area bridge
- A181 Kelson area trails

Areas for potential tracks – to be explored through master planning process

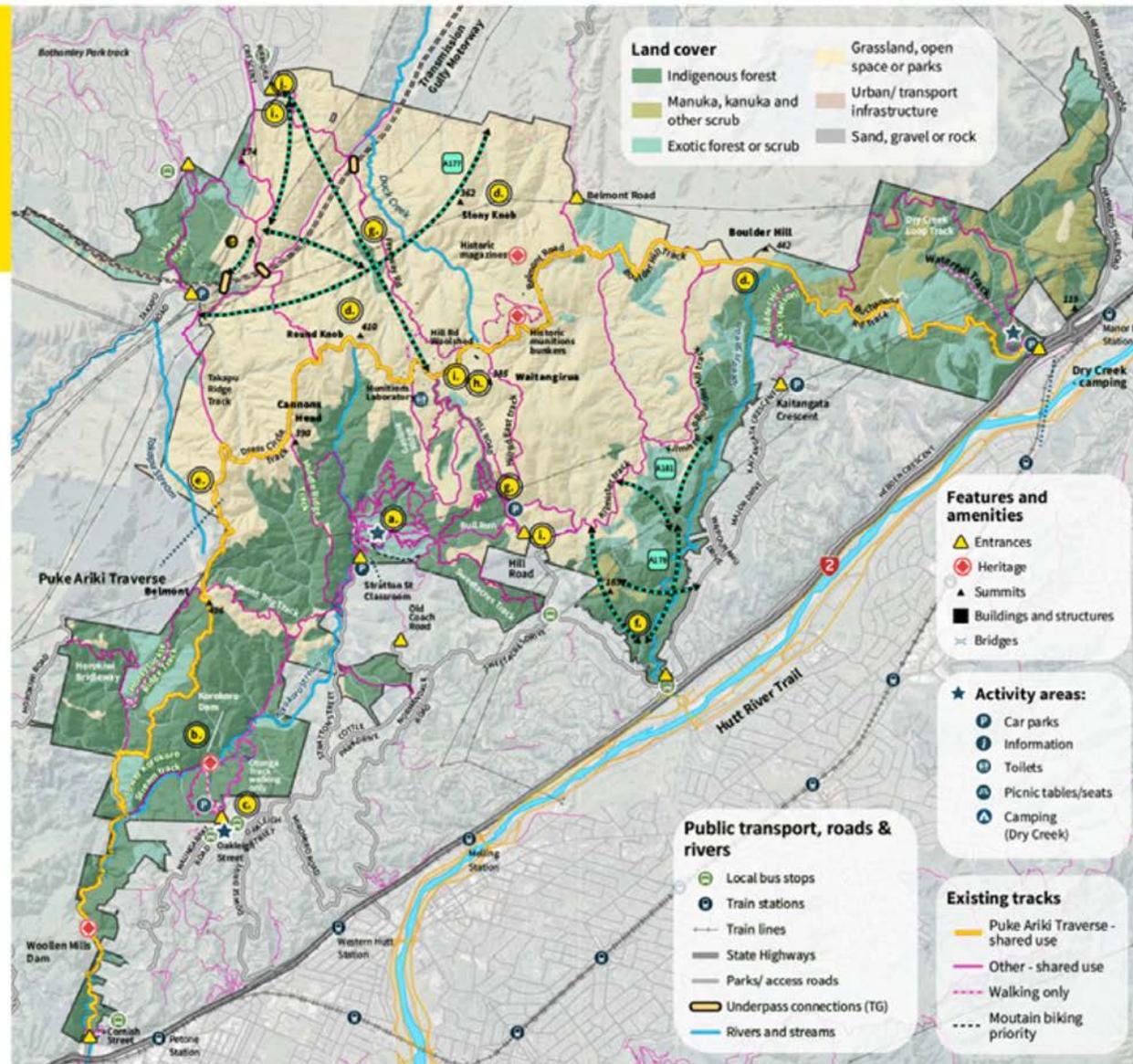
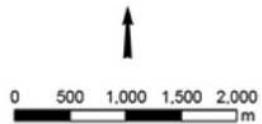


Figure 7 Map 8: Belmont Regional Park potential enhancements

Belmont Regional Park Potential trail and access enhancements

Trail development identified in key areas of the park (labelled) through the master planning process. Most trails are shown by mountain bike grade, unless walking only.

1. Takapu Road connections (A183)
2. East Porirua trail network (A171, 172, 187, 189)
3. Kelson/Hill Rd new connections (A178, 181)
4. Shorter circuits and connections (A189)
5. North Belmont connections (A177, A189)
6. Porirua to Hutt Valley route (A185, A170g)
7. Mountain bike new trails (A188)
8. Bunkers short walk (A170h, A174)

Cycle trails

Proposed (named tracks)

Mountain bike grade

- Easy
- Intermediate
- - - Advanced
- - - Expert

Existing

- ##### Mountain bike grade
- Easy
 - Intermediate
 - Advanced
 - Expert

←→ Areas for potential trails (multiuse)

— Walking only

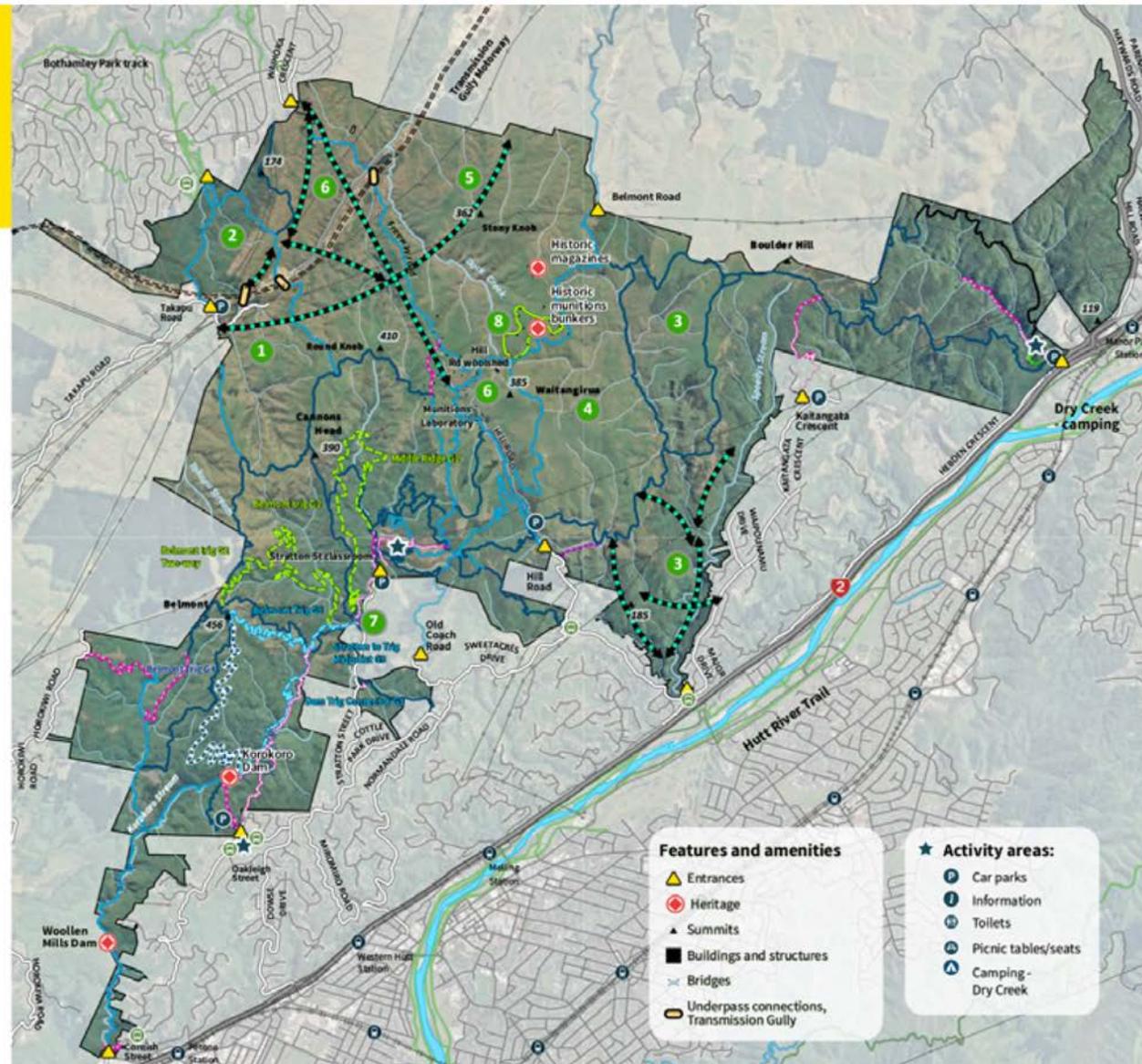
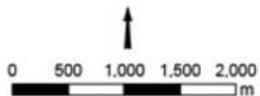


Figure 8 Map 9: Belmont potential trail enhancements

Belmont Regional Park

High level restoration priorities

The high level priorities include areas of the park in the early stages of restoration. Detailed restoration priorities are determined through other processes.

Restoration areas

Priority

- First
- Second
- Third

- Key Native Ecosystem programme areas

Features and amenities

- ▲ Entrances
- Heritage
- ▲ Summits
- Buildings and structures
- ≡ Bridges

★ Activity areas:

- P Car parks
- i Information
- T Toilets
- P Picnic tables/seats
- A Camping - Dry Creek

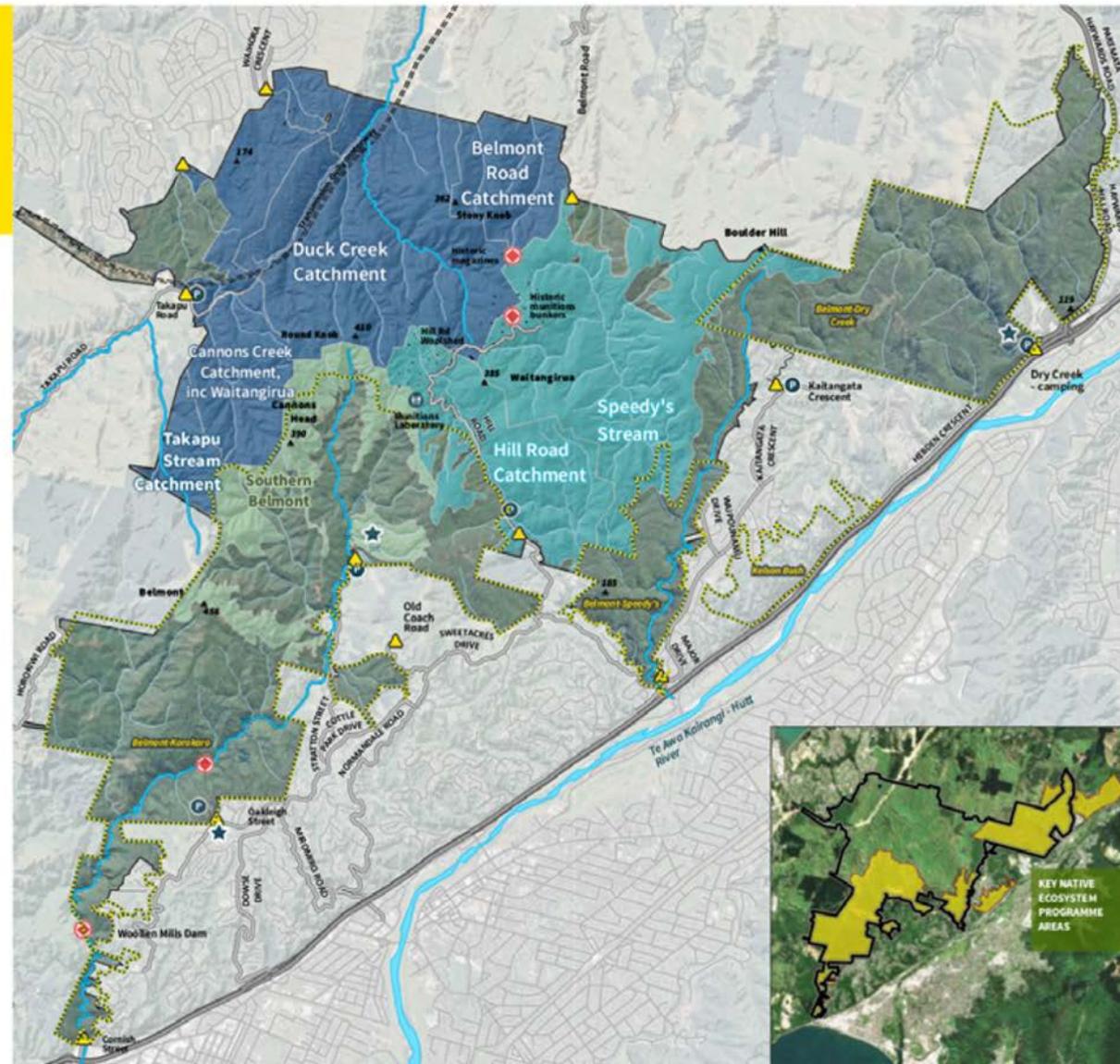
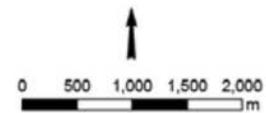


Figure 9 Map 10: Belmont restoration priorities

Other strategies

Wellington Regional Trails Framework

61. This strategy aims to introduce a coordinated approach to planning, developing and managing a regional trails network. Key parties to the Wellington Regional Trails Framework are Greater Wellington Regional Council, Wellington City Council, Hutt City, Upper Hutt City Council, Porirua City Council, Kapiti Coast District Council, Masterton District Council, Carterton District Council and South Wairarapa District Council as well as the Department of Conservation and the Wellington Regional Development Agency.¹⁴
62. The Framework established three classes of trail¹⁵:
 - i. Signature Trails such as the Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park, Rimutaka Cycle Trail, Rangituhi/Colonial Knob and the proposed Wairarapa Five Towns Trail, which attract recognition for the region as a trail destination and provide a focal point for residents' activity. They will be showcased through a dedicated website and benefit from increased marketing and promotion and further development of the visitor experience on offer.
 - ii. Regional Trails, such as the Wainuiomata Trail project, **Puke Ariki**, Eastern Hutt Hills, Waikanae River Trail and the proposed Cruickshank Tunnel Trail which form the core of the regional network and provide quality experiences for locals and visitors alike looking for a less "populated" experience.
 - iii. Local Trails, which primarily service local communities looking for recreation options close to home.
63. The strategy notes the Puke Ariki trail (part Buchanans Road tramping track) requires upgraded signage and infrastructure at trailheads plus interpretive signage to create more of an experience.
64. "A survey¹⁶ of trail user groups in the region was undertaken by Tourism Resource Consultants (2017) to inform the development of this strategic framework to provide qualitative information on the use patterns, strengths weaknesses and opportunities of the trails network and the demand for future services. The survey responses indicated that:
 - walking (including tramping) and mountain biking/cycling remain the most popular forms of trail use by existing user groups, followed by horse riding and other uses, including trail running

¹⁴ Wellington Regional Trails for the Future - A strategic framework for trails in the Wellington Region (2017) TRC Tourism Limited

¹⁵ p.26 Wellington Regional Trails for the Future

¹⁶ TRC (2017). A survey of user groups associated with the Wellington Region. The survey was not designed to extract quantitative data in a statistically defensible way, but to allow user groups to provide input and qualitative information in a structured way. The survey was distributed to groups from all major use categories including mountain biking, trail running, tramping, walking, cycling, horse riding, dog walking and conservation groups and event organisers. Over 235 responses were received.

- trails that provide an experience of 1 to 4 hours remain popular, with shorter experiences of less than 1 hour providing the least interest to those surveyed
 - moderate trail difficulty is the category of trail most in demand across all user groups and all user types
 - there is demand for more horse-friendly trails or trails where horse facilities provide easier access
 - for many of the user groups, having a trail network close to home to use and access natural areas is important for fitness, lifestyle and recreation.
65. The region's trail user groups¹⁷ considered the following improvements may be needed to the regional trail network:
- improved trail information, including on-site signage and a single source of information on the trails network (with a facility for users to provide feedback on maintenance issues)
 - better trail condition and quality
 - a connected network
 - a greater diversity of trails and activities, with loop options
 - improved access to trails in the Wairarapa area and Wellington's northern suburbs
 - more trails that cater for the region's growing over-55 demographic.
66. User conflict and safety on multi-use trails were significant concerns raised across walkers, bikers and horse riders. Concerns included safety on narrow trails, spooking of horses and lack of clarity about permissible trail uses." ¹⁸

¹⁷ Based on the user group survey and consultation meetings held at 4 locations throughout the region.

¹⁸ p.20 Wellington Regional Trails for the Future

RECREATIONAL USE

National and regional participation

67. Active NZ Surveys carried out by Sport New Zealand indicate survey participants in the Wellington region are likely to be more active in walking (48.6%) than the national average (45.1%), more active in mountain biking (4.3%) than the national average (4.0%) and slightly less active in running/jogging (25%) compared to the national average of (25.6%).¹⁹

Belmont Regional Park use

68. GWRC has published the findings of its annual visitor surveys of the Regional Park Network from 2018 through 2024. These surveys track how people use the regional parks and what they value about their visits. Over this period, the data collection methods evolved – from phone interviews in 2020–2021 to online panels in 2022–2024 – allowing increasingly detailed, park-specific insights. Despite methodology changes, some clear patterns emerge for Belmont Regional Park: walking remains the most popular activity, mountain biking is a strong secondary use, horse riding is a niche activity, and the park’s natural scenery and trails are consistently cherished by visitors. In tandem, visitor satisfaction has generally improved, supported by incremental park improvements and management focus on visitor experience and environmental stewardship.

Park Usage and Activity Trends (2020–2024)

69. Belmont Regional Park attracts a significant share of regional park-goers, with walking as their primary pursuit. In 2020–2021, roughly one in five Wellington region residents reported visiting Belmont in the past year (around 20–22% of survey respondents). By 2023, about 34% of respondents had visited Belmont in the previous 12 months (GWRC, 2023). Overall, the general trend indicates a growing or at least sustained popularity for Belmont as awareness and participation in regional parks increase.

Walking, Biking, and Horse Riding Patterns

70. Walking/tramping has been the dominant activity in Belmont Regional Park every year. Virtually all visitors engage in some form of walking on the park’s trails.

¹⁹ 2022 2023 Active NZ Survey Sport New Zealand

71. Mountain biking has consistently been the second-most prominent recreation in Belmont Regional Park. The park's extensive trail network (including steep hill tracks) is popular with cyclists. In 2023, mountain biking was explicitly called out as one of the top activities in the park (along with walking and sightseeing). Over time, mountain biking's popularity has remained stable to growing. Earlier reports noted mountain biking or cycling as an important activity region-wide (roughly one-quarter to one-third of park users overall) – a pattern reflected in Belmont Regional Park's usage. By 2022 and 2023, mountain biking usage was strong enough to be listed among the park's four most common activities (GWRC 2023). This indicates that a substantial segment of visitors come to Belmont Regional Park specifically for its biking trails, and that share has been steady or increasing. The park's mix of intermediate and advanced tracks draws many cyclists, though not outnumbering walkers.
72. Horse riding is a much more niche activity at Belmont, practiced by a small minority of visitors. All surveys consistently show horse riding ranks far below walking and biking in usage. In the 2022 and 2023 analyses of Belmont Regional Park, horse riding did not make the "top activities" lists at all (GWRC 2023) implying it has a very low frequency (likely only a few percent of visitors).
73. From 2020 to 2024, the relative popularity of walking, biking, and horse riding in Belmont remained consistent – walking always first, biking second, horse riding distant behind. Overall participation levels appear to be increasing and repeat visitation also appears to be increasing with the 2023 survey showing 45% of Belmont visitors went more than twice that year (GWRC, 2023), higher than previously recorded.

Visitor Demographics and Usage Patterns

74. Broadly, the park surveys indicate that visitors to Belmont Regional Park tend to come from nearby urban areas (especially the Hutt Valley and Porirua) and skew toward established adult age groups rather than the very young. Key observations include:
 - Local Residents and Proximity: Usage by area of residence shows that people living closer to Belmont are far more likely to visit it. For example, a greater percentage of Lower Hutt and Porirua residents (for whom Belmont is relatively nearby) reported visiting Belmont, compared to residents of Wellington City or the Wairarapa. This was evident in all survey years – proximity drives park choice. In the 2020 survey, Belmont had one of the highest visit rates among Hutt Valley respondents (GRWC, 2020) while Wellington City residents, who have to drive further, visited less. This pattern continued through 2023. Essentially, Belmont serves as a "backyard regional park" for the Hutt Valley population, and its user profile reflects that local catchment.
 - Age Distribution: All surveys targeted adults aged 16 and up, and within that broad range, middle-aged adults made up a large share of Belmont's visitors. The data suggest that visitors in their 30s, 40s, and 50s are very active in the park – often families or individuals out for exercise. Younger adults (16–29) were somewhat underrepresented among park users. In fact, the 2023 report noted that respondents under 30 were significantly less likely to have visited regional parks like Belmont than those in their 40s or 60s (GWRC, 2023) This could be due to lifestyle differences or awareness. Over time there was a slight

uptick in youth participation (possibly as outdoor recreation becomes more popular), but older adults remained the core visitors. Meanwhile, senior citizens (70+) use Belmont too, but their numbers are smaller relative to the 30–60 age bracket.

Visitor Values and Perceptions of Belmont Regional Park

75. Over the 2020–2024 period, visitors consistently value Belmont’s natural environment, scenic beauty, and the recreational opportunities (trails and open space) it provides. While different surveys phrased questions differently (some open-ended, some via satisfaction drivers), the core values associated with Belmont show strong continuity, with a slight evolution in the detail of what gets mentioned. In summary they are:
- Natural scenery and landscape
 - Trails and outdoor recreation opportunities
 - Natural features and biodiversity
 - Accessibility and location
 - Tranquility and space
 - Community and Heritage Values

Overall Satisfaction Levels

76. Visitors to Belmont are overwhelmingly satisfied with their experience. In 2022, 84% of Belmont visitors were satisfied or very satisfied and in 2023, this rose to 87% satisfied. To add context, Belmont’s satisfaction is on par with or slightly above the average for all Wellington regional parks. In 2023, for instance, overall satisfaction (all parks combined) was reported as 85% and Belmont slightly exceeded that (GWRC 2023)

Use of Buchanans tramping track

Estimation of annual use

77. As GWRC does not hold trail use data specific to the Buchanans Road tramping track, an estimate of use has been made via:
- Installation of a temporary PIR sensor installed on the Buchanans Road tramping track near the proposed OBDA area from Xyst on 9 July 2025 to 9 September 2025. The PIR sensor location is shown in Figure 10.
 - Analysis of Strava Metro data for 1 Jan 2024 to 31 December 2024 and 1 August 2025 to 31 August 2025
 - Review of published club tramping/riding trips in the Wellington region

78. The PIR sensor used cannot differentiate between pedestrians, horses, bikes or vehicles and therefore may include non-recreational users such as those subject matter users and consultants associated with this application, GWRC parks management and maintenance staff or other authorised workers accessing the park via Buchanans Road.

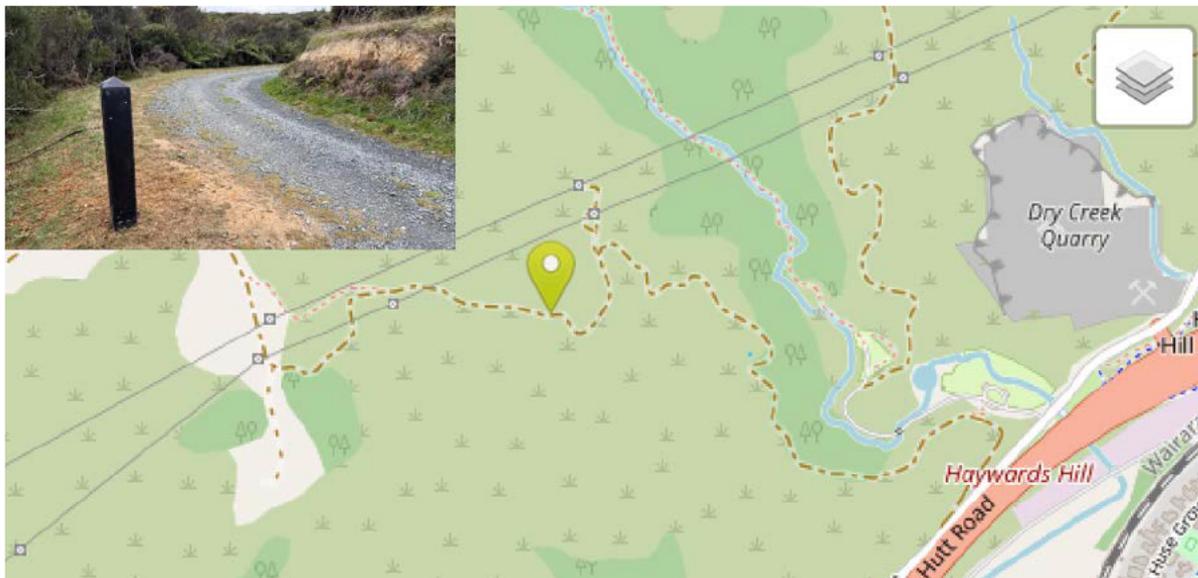


Figure 10 Location of PIR sensor Buchanan's Road tramping track July 2025

79. During the period 9 July 2025 to 9 September 2025 the PIR sensor recorded a total of 859 counts giving a daily average of 14 counts.
80. During the month of August (for when comparative data is available) the PIR sensor recorded a total of 414 counts while Strava Metro recorded 85 counts in the location of the PIR sensor. The total number of counts recorded by Strava Metro for this location in the 2024 Calander year was 1375. By applying a multiplier of 4.9, being the difference between the PIR sensor count in August 2025 and the Strava Metro Activity count for the same period, I estimate that the total number of counts for the PIR sensor for a full year would be approximately 6,697 or a daily average of 18 counts.
81. There are several tramping clubs in the Wellington region who organise day trips for members into the Belmont Regional Park. Those with scheduled or published trips on club websites since 2023 are the Taranua Tramping Club, Wellington Tramping and Mountaineering Club, Kamatua Tramping Club, Hutt Valley Tramping Club, Forest & Bird Wellington Regional Tramping Club, Upper Hutt Walking and Tramping Club and Parawai Tramping Club. Over the period of January 2025 to September 2025 a total of 21 organised tramping trips into Belmont Regional Park were scheduled. Of these trips, two were the Puke Ariki Traverse originating from Dry Creek and one was the Buchanan's Road tramping track – Dry Creek loop.

Types of recreational users

Hunting

82. The hunting of deer, goats and pigs is prohibited in Belmont Regional Park. There is therefore no authorised recreational hunting within the Belmont Regional Park.

Walking/Running/Tramping

83. Walking/Running and Tramping is the most popular use of the Buchanans Road tramping track



Figure 11 members of the Tararua Tramping Club on the Buchanans Road tramping track - Dry Creek Circuit 9 July 2025

Dog Walking

84. The Buchanans Road tramping track is popular for dog walking (on-lead) given the good access from the Dry Creek entrance. The Buchanans Road tramping track provides a good exercise opportunity in a relatively remote setting compared with other dog walking opportunities in the Hutt Valley which are generally located along the Hutt River or on flat sites.
85. It is noted that the Buchanans Road tramping track is also being used by at least one professional dog walker to exercise groups of dogs on lead²⁰.

²⁰ GWRC has confirmed that no licence or concessions have been issued for this activity.

Mountain Bikers

86. Mountain biking is permitted on the Buchanans Road tramping track. The track is graded as an Advanced Mountain biking trail and is used by Cross Country Mountain bikers especially to access or descend from Boulder Hill. The Buchanans Road tramping track is considered a difficult ride because of the elevation gain and sustained climb.
87. The Buchanans Road tramping track is typically used by Mountain bikers as part of longer cross-country routes across Belmont Regional Park or as part of the Dry Creek loop.
88. The majority of mountain biking activity occurs at the Stratton Street Entrance of Belmont Park where there are a series of purpose-built mountain biking trails in proximity to residential areas. The Buchanans Road tramping track is recorded as the 16th most popular mountain biking trail in the Belmont Regional Park between 2013 and 2025 with 34 trips logged by 27 individual users²¹. By way of comparison, the most popular mountain biking trail in the park over the same time period is the Wētā trail with 498 trips logged by 111 individual users.
89. No mountain bike riders were observed during field trips to the area.

Horse Riders

90. A GWRC brochure "Horse Riding in Wellington Regional Parks and Forests" (Figure 12) describes the horse-riding opportunities from Dry Creek.

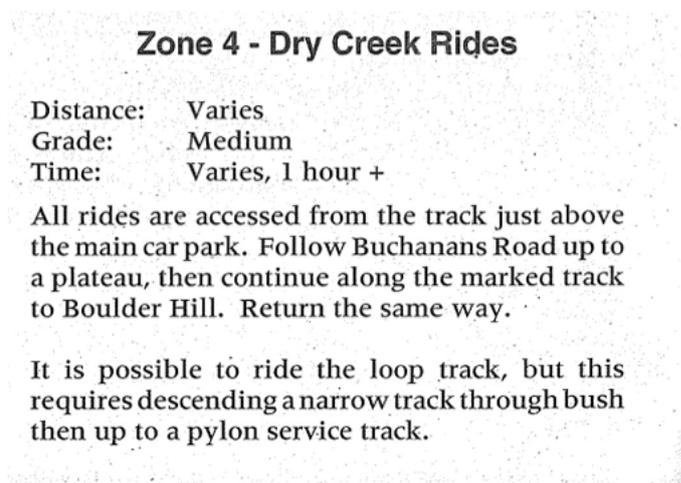


Figure 12 Description of horse riding opportunities from publication "Horse Riding in Wellington Regional Parks and Forests"

91. Horse riding within Belmont Regional Park requires an annual permit. As of July 2025, there were 26 horse riding permits issued for Belmont Regional Park.

²¹ Trailforks.com trip log data reviewed 16 July 2025. Trailforks.com is a popular application for mountain bikers to record and share trail riding activity.

92. GWRC²² estimates there are between 50-100 horse rides taking place per annum using the Dry Creek area. Dry Creek is considered a secondary hub for horse riding activity as there are other more accessible sites and better horse-riding opportunities within the park such as at the Hill Road entrance where the Belmont Pony Club is located or the Stratton Street entrance.
93. An interview with a member of the Belmont Pony Club confirmed that the vast majority of horse-riding activity occurs from the Hill Road entrance with rides taking place towards and to Boulder Hill. Dry Creek is more likely to be used by non-club members or visiting riders. No horse riders were observed during field trips to the area.

Use of the utilities track

94. Data from Strava Metro indicates that 41% of Buchanans Track users, detour onto the utilities track while 59% stay on the official trail route. This would provide an estimate of 2758 uses of the utilities track per annum or a daily average of 7 uses.
95. The utilities road is likely to be more popular for bikers because of its lower grade and firmer surface when compared to Buchanans Road tramping track in the vicinity of the proposed OBDA, especially for those bike riders ascending to Boulder Hill rather than descending.

Use of the proposed OBDA area

96. Excluding the use of the utilities track, I consider the recreational use of the proposed OBDA to be insignificant. No recreational activity was observed during field visits and no recreational use is recorded on Strava Metro within this area.

Use of the DOC Gets areas

97. There is no existing recreational use of the Winstone owned Northern Gully, Eastern Edge or Dry Creek areas as these areas are closed to recreational users.

²² Pers comm Jeremy Paterson, Western Parks Team Leader, GWRC July 2025

USER AND STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

98. Informal Interviews took place in July 2025 with four groups of trail users identified during site visits, as well as four organisations that utilise the park, especially the Dry Creek area. The intent of the interviews was to understand the type and frequency of use, the origin of visitors, if users stayed on trail or explored off-trail and the attributes of the park that were important to users. While the number of interviews is limited given the seasonal use of the park, the views gained were consistent with the evidence obtained via the literature review. Table 1 provides a summary of the interviews undertaken by Xyst.

Table 1 Interviews undertaken

User/User Group	Contact	Date	Key Comments
Belmont Area Mountain Biking Association (BAMBA)	Michael Parsons (President)	16 July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of club members based in Korokoro area and most mountain biking activity is centred here. • Personal use of Dry Creek area limited to a few times a year • Opportunities to expand riding in the park, especially in the area of traverse/endurance riding • Also opportunities for improving kid friendly trails
Belmont Pony Club	Cora McCauley	20 July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club activity is centred on Hill Road entrance with rides as far as Boulder Hill from Hill Road • Notes absence of sudden noise and dust as important factor for safe horse riding. • Infrequent horse riding activity at Dry Creek is more likely to be non-members
Tararua Tramping Club (Member)	Marg Pearce	10 July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typically visits Belmont Regional Park every three weeks • Leader of recent club trip on Dry Creek Loop • Typically walks trails from Cannons Creek entrance

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Values sweeping views and walking variety of trails form different directions • Does not go off track in Belmont because of stock
Upper Hutt Walking and Tramping Club (Member)	Linda Fowler	21 July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent trip leader for Dry Creek Loop Track • Club undertakes trips in area a few times a year • Values accessibility
Trail Runner	Anonymous	9 July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular trail runner • Lives locally and typically runs to Boulder Hill return • Values good access, wide trail and remoteness
Dog Walkers (2)	Anonymous	10 July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular local dog walkers • Value easy access and good workout for dogs and walkers
Dog Walker (1)	Anonymous	6 August 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular local dog walker • Good exercise and rural nature valued • Walks to Boulder Hill return
Dog Walker (1)	Anonymous	6 August 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular local dog walker • Values rural setting and good exercise. • Walks to Boulder Hill and occasionally Dry Creek loop

99. The interviews, literature review and observations support the conclusion that primary activity on the Buchanans Road Tramping Track is walking (including dog walking) and running. Mountain biking does occur but to a far lesser degree. Horse-riding activity does occur but in very low numbers. The main destination is Boulder Hill via the Buchanans Road tramping track returning via the same route with a lesser number of walkers returning to the Dry Creek carpark via the Dry Creek loop track. No significant off-trail use taking place by walkers and runners or horse riders. Mountain biking activity is limited to riders with advanced skills and high levels of fitness due to the steep gradient of the track.

Origin

100. Regular users are likely to reside in the Hutt Valley with infrequent visitors coming from the greater Wellington region.

Key Activity Areas

101. The key activity area for mountain biking is the Stratton Street entrance whereas the key activity area for horse riding is the Hill Street entrance where the Belmont Pony Club is located.

Values

102. Trail users appreciate the accessibility of the Dry Creek area and Buchanans Road tramping to the residential areas in the Hutt Valley. The challenge of the climb to Boulder Hill is a key reason for visits by regular runners and dog walkers. The ready access from urban setting to a rural landscape setting is a key attraction as is the views obtained of the Wellington harbour and 360 views obtained once boulder hill is reached.

Things which prevent recreation

103. Exposure to wind was cited as the most frequent thing that prevented recreation in the area. Users noted that relatively calm condition in the Hutt Valley did not translate to a calm conditions on the exposed hills and ridges of the park.
104. While horse riding activity is largely centred on the Hill Road entrance and is remote from quarrying activity, the interviewee noted that the absence of sudden noise and dust was an important factor for safe horse riding.

REFERENCES

Living Well Wellington Region Places and Spaces Framework (Physical Activity Strategy), Nuku Ora (undated)

Conservation Management Strategy, Wellington 2019, Volume 1 (2019) Department of Conservation

Reserves Strategic Directions 2016-2026. (2016) Hutt City Council

Making Tracks – A comprehensive ten-year plan for managing and developing the Hutt City Councils' track network, Parks and Gardens Division, (2009) Hutt City Council

Belmont Regional Park Management Plan, September 1996, Publication No. WRC/REC-G-96/52 ISBN 0-909016-46-1, Wellington Regional Council.

Toitū Te Whenua, Parks Network Plan 2020-30. Greater Wellington Regional Council

Summary of written submissions, officer advice and deliberations. Appendix 1 Toitū Te Whenua, Parks Network Plan 2020-30. Greater Wellington Regional Council

Wellington Regional Trails for the Future - A strategic framework for trails in the Wellington Region (2017) TRC Tourism Limited

Wellington Regional Trails for the Future - A strategic framework for trails in the Wellington Region (2023) Wellington Regional Trails

Wellington Region Open Space Strategy & Action Plan (2009) Greater Wellington Regional Council

Regional Spaces and Places Place Framework, Living Well Wellington Regional Physical Activity Framework. Nuku Ora (2019).

Community Survey Regarding Regional Parks And Forests 2020, Have & Cox, Greater Wellington Regional Council, July 2020

Community Survey Regarding Regional Parks & Trails 2021, Greater Wellington Regional Council, David Dillon July 2021

Detailed Analysis Report – Parks and Trails Satisfaction Survey 2023, Greater Wellington Regional Council, 2023

Regional Parks and River Trails Satisfaction Survey 2024, Greater Wellington Regional Council, 2024

Appendix 3: Dry Creek title showing right of way



**RECORD OF TITLE
UNDER LAND TRANSFER ACT 2017
FREEHOLD**

**Guaranteed Search Copy issued under Section 60 of the Land
Transfer Act 2017**




R. W. Muir
Registrar-General
of Land

Identifier **WNF2/1438**

Part-Cancelled

Land Registration District **Wellington**

Date Issued 06 March 1967

Prior References

WN489/101

Estate Fee Simple
Area 16.1874 hectares more or less
Legal Description Lot 1 Deposited Plan 28205
Registered Owners
Fletcher Concrete and Infrastructure Limited

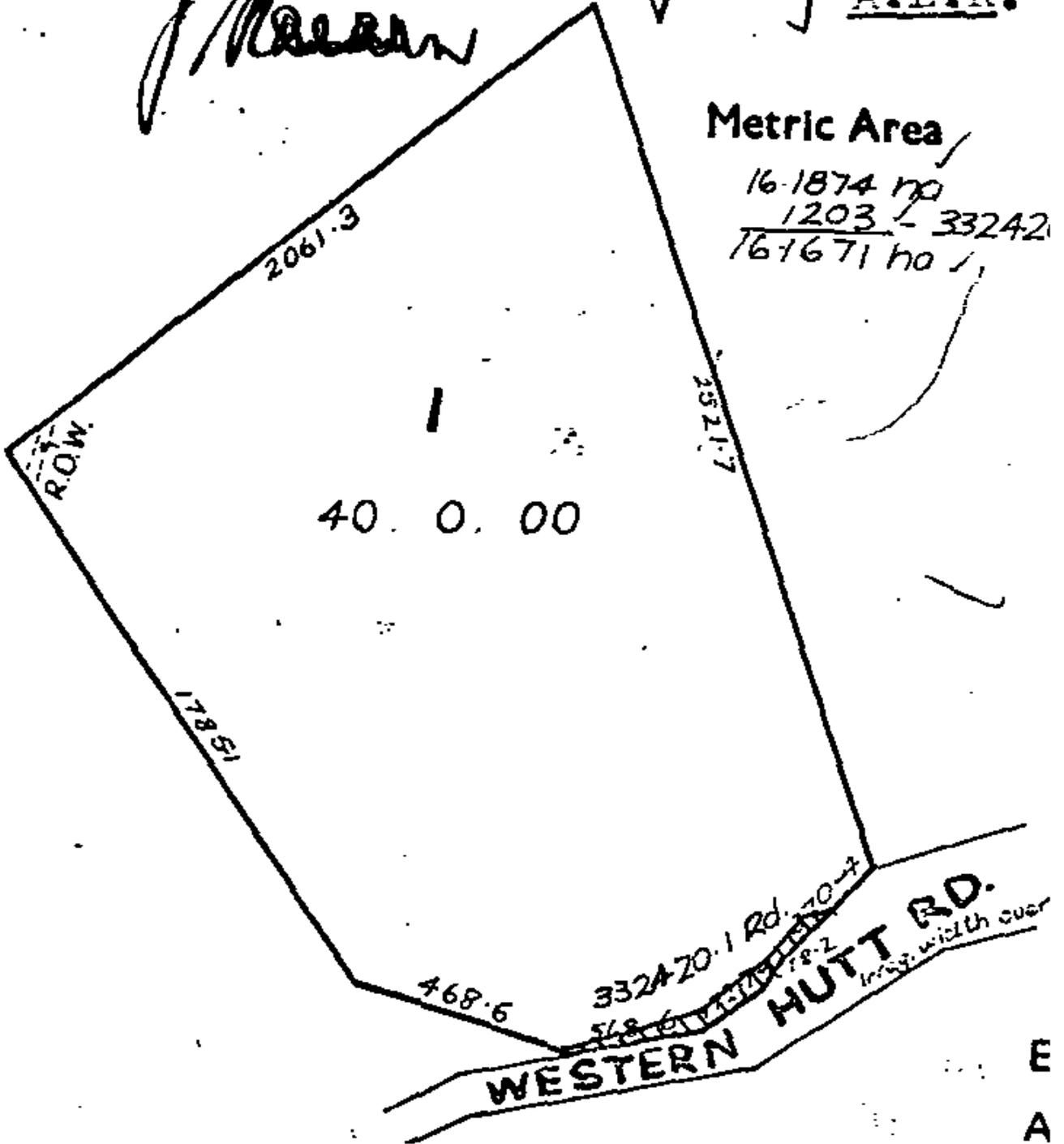
Interests

Subject to a right of way over part coloured yellow on DP 28205 specified in Easement Certificate 701267
332420.1 Gazette Notice taking part (1203m²) of the within land (hatched black hereon) for road - 22.6.1979 at 10.55 am

PRODUCED

J. K. ...

A.L.R.



2/1438

E
A

701267 EC

L. & D. 82

New Zealand

(T)

EASEMENT CERTIFICATE

(IMPORTANT—Registration of this certificate does not of itself create any of the easements specified herein.)

I, DRY CREEK HOLDINGS LIMITED a duly incorporated company having its registered office at Wellington

being the registered proprietor of the land described in the Schedule hereto hereby certify that the easements specified in that Schedule, the servient tenements in relation to which are shown on a plan of survey deposited in the Land Registry Office at Wellington on the 30th day of January 1967 under No. 28205 are the easements which it is intended shall be created by the operation of section 90A of the Land Transfer Act 1952.

SCHEDULE DEPOSITED PLAN NO.

Nature of Easement (e.g., Right of Way, etc.)	SERVIENT TENEMENT		Dominant Tenement Allotment No(s).	Title Reference
	Allotment No.	Colour, or Other Means of Identification, of Part Subject to Easement		
Right of Way	1	Yellow	Part Section 200 Hutt District 1967 Easement Certificate of Title 489/101 Block IV Belmont Survey District Deposited Plan 28205	Part Volume 489 Folio 101

Transfer 701268 of Lot 1, Plan 28205 - 6.3.1967

1. Rights and powers:

State whether any rights or powers set out here are in addition to or in substitution for those set out in the Seventh Schedule to the Land Transfer Act 1952.

2. Terms, conditions, covenants, or restrictions in respect of any of the above easements:

Dated this 31st day of January 19 67

~~Signed by the above named~~
~~in the presence of~~
THE COMMON SEAL of DRY CREEK
HOLDINGS LIMITED, was hereunto
affixed by and in the presence
of:-



Reginald J. Semple

Reginald J. Semple
Director

Witness:

Occupation:

Address:

701267

163

No.

EASEMENT CERTIFICATE

situated in Land District of Wellington

Particulars entered in the Register-book,

Vol. 489, folio 107

the **6-MAR 1967** 19
at 12.27 o'clock.

Ryher

 District Land Registrar.

of the District of WELLINGTON

Noted
DP 28205
[Signature]
13/13
 (1)

RAINEY, COLLINS ARMOUR & BOOCK,

DEEDS
 SOLICITORS, ETC
 WELLINGTON
 Date: 6 MAR 1967
 Time: 12.27
 Fee: £ 1203

Correct for the purposes of the Land Transfer Act.

Boock
 Solicitor for the Registered Proprietor.

RIGHTS AND POWERS OF GRANTEES IMPLIED IN CERTAIN EASEMENTS BY SECTION 90D OF THE LAND TRANSFER ACT 1952

"1. RIGHT OF WAY

The full, free, uninterrupted, and unrestricted right, liberty, and privilege for the grantee, his servants, tenants, agents, workmen, licensees, and invitees (in common with the grantor, his tenants, and any other person lawfully entitled so to do) from time to time and at all times by day and by night to go pass and repass, with or without horses and domestic animals of any kind and with or without carriages, vehicles, motor vehicles, machinery, and implements of any kind, over and along the land over which the right of way is granted or created.

"2. RIGHT TO CONVEY WATER

The full, free, uninterrupted, and unrestricted right, liberty, and privilege for the grantee and his tenants (in common with the grantor, his tenants, and any other person lawfully entitled so to do) from time to time and at all times to take, convey, and lead water in a free and unimpeded flow (except when the flow is halted for any reasonable period necessary for essential repairs) and in any quantity, consistent with the rights of other persons having the same or similar rights, from the source of supply or point of entry, as the case may be, and following the stipulated course (where a course is stipulated) across the land over which the easement is granted or created, together with the additional rights incidental thereto set out in clause 5 of this Schedule.

"3. RIGHT TO DRAIN WATER

The full, free, uninterrupted, and unrestricted right, liberty, and privilege for the grantee and his tenants (in common with the grantor, his tenants, and any other person lawfully entitled so to do) from time to time and at all times to drain and discharge water (whether rain, tempest, spring, soakage, or seepage water) in any quantities along the stipulated course (where a course is stipulated) across the land over which the easement is granted or created, together with the additional rights incidental thereto set out in clause 5 of this Schedule (or, where open drains are provided for, similar rights in regard to those drains, with the necessary modifications as are provided for in respect of pipe lines in the additional rights so set out).

"4. RIGHT TO DRAIN SEWAGE

The full, free, uninterrupted, and unrestricted right, liberty, and privilege for the grantee and his tenants (in common with the grantor, his tenants, and any other person lawfully entitled so to do) from time to time and at all times to drain, discharge, or convey sewage and other waste material and fluid in any quantities along the stipulated course (where a course is stipulated) across the land over which the easement is granted or created, together with the additional rights incidental thereto set out in clause 5 of this Schedule.

"5. ADDITIONAL RIGHTS ATTACHING TO EASEMENTS OF RIGHT TO CONVEY WATER AND OF RIGHT TO DRAIN WATER AND OF RIGHT TO DRAIN SEWAGE

The full, free, uninterrupted, and unrestricted right, liberty, and privilege for the grantee and his tenants (in common with the grantor, his tenants, and any other person lawfully entitled so to do) for the purposes of the easement concerned—

- (a) To use any line of pipes already laid on the stipulated course or any pipe or pipes in replacement or in substitution for all or any of those pipes:
- (b) Where no such line of pipes exists, to lay, place, and maintain, or to have laid, placed, and maintained, a line of pipes of a sufficient internal diameter and of suitable material for the purpose under or over the surface (as the parties decide) of the land over which the easement is granted or created and along the line defined for the purpose where such a line has been so defined:
- (c) In order to construct or maintain the efficiency of any such pipe line, the full, free, uninterrupted, and unrestricted right, liberty, and privilege for the grantee, his tenants, servants, agents, and workmen, with any tools, implements, machinery, vehicles, or equipment of whatsoever nature necessary for the purpose, to enter upon the land over which the easement is granted or created (or, where only the position of the pipe line is defined in the easement, upon such part of the land of the grantor and by such route as is reasonable in the circumstances) and to remain there for any reasonable time for the purpose of laying, inspecting, cleansing, repairing, maintaining, and renewing the pipe line or any part thereof and of opening up the soil of that land to such extent as may be necessary and reasonable in that regard, subject to the condition that as little disturbance as possible is caused to the surface of the land of the grantor and that the surface is restored as nearly as possible to its original condition and any other damage done by reason of the aforesaid operations is repaired."



Appendix 4: Author qualifications and experience

• CURRICULUM VITAE

Recreation and Tourism Research and Planning

has an academic and practical background in recreation, tourism and conservation management. He is experienced in planning and managing for public, community and commercial facilities and services in parks and reserves, and in urban and protected areas.

His strong skills in formal and informal data gathering, research analysis and journalism have been demonstrated in hundreds of project reports, management plans, publications, evidence, submissions and research papers over the past 30 years. has published extensively in New Zealand, Australia and Asia (examples of articles and papers are available on www.greenaway.co.nz).

Core work is recreation and reserve management planning, and comprehensive and robust assessments of effects of large-scale infrastructure proposals. Rob has presented expert evidence at over 120 hearings, with experience in hydro, irrigation, wind, forestry, subdivision, roading, cycleways, mining, marine farming, discharges and coastal and tourism developments.

Work History from 1990	1997 - current:	Director, (R&R Consulting (NZ) Ltd), Nelson.
	1995 - 1997:	Consultant in Recreation and Tourism, Boffa Miskell Limited, Christchurch.
	1990 - 1995:	Consultant in Recreation and Tourism, Tourism Resource Consultants, Wellington.

SELECTED EXPERIENCE

Assessments of effect and expert witness evidence	NZSki, 2025 – current: Impact assessment for Remarkables Skifield expansion.
	Christchurch City Council, 2023–current: Impact assessments for reconstruction of Akaroa Wharf (with Enviser).
	Port of Tauranga, 2023–current: Assessment for reconstituting of harbour dredge activities.
	Bathurst Resources, 2023–current: Assessments for mining works on Denniston and Stockton Plateaus.
	Santana Minerals, 2024–2025: Effects assessment for Bendigo gold mine proposal.
	Mowbray family, 2023–2024: Assessment for consent for helicopter activity, Westmere, Auckland.
	Treetops Adventure, 2022–2024: Concession and consent application for high-ropes course in Hanmer Springs.
	OceanaGold, 2020–2025: Review of effects of Waihi North project (with Mitchell Daysh).
	Skyline Enterprises, 2024–2025: Submission evidence for proposed aerial lift amenity area at Franz Josef.
	Auckland Council, 2024–2025: Open space assessment and evidence for Private Plan Change 94.
	Ravensdown, 2022–2024: Reconstituting Dunedin fertiliser works, recreation assessment.
	Northport, 2020–2023: Effects assessment and evidence for port expansion and reclamation (with Enviser).
	Waka Kotahi and Auckland Transport, 2022–2023: Assessments for NORs for Airport to Botany and North West rapid transit corridors and roading improvements (with Beca).
	100WPS Trust, 2023: Evidence for marina redevelopment near Walter Peak on Lake Wakatipu.
	Watercare, 2022–2023: Central Interceptor works on Point Erin Park, recreation assessment.
	Kāpiti Coast District Council, 2021–2022: Assessment for wastewater treatment options in Waikanae (with Stantec).
	Hurunui District Council, 2021–current: Effects assessment and evidence for a Flyride in Hanmer Springs.
	Wellington Water, 2018–2022: Assessment for wastewater treatment options in Porirua (with Stantec).
	Bayview Maitahi Proposed Plan Change 28, 2022: Evidence for plan change for residential development in Kaka Valley, Nelson.
	Kaikōura District Council, 2022: Effects of Wakatu Quay tourism development proposal (with Enviser).
Graymont Ltd, 2019–2022: Quarry expansion and reconstituting existing operations (with PDP).	
Whakatāne District Council, 2021: Assessment of effects for boat harbour development connected to the Whakatāne River (with Sally Gepp Barrister and Waredale).	
Waka Kotahi, 2019–2021: Review of effects and benefits of proposed shared path between Ngauranga and Petone.	
Talley's, Clearwater Mussels, Clifford Bay Marine, PALMS Ltd, Marine Farming Association, Aquaculture NZ and Friends of Onapua Bay, 2021: Several sets of evidence relating to Marlborough	

District Council's Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan for aquaculture (largely with Gascoigne Wicks).

Tasman Asphalt, 2021: Evidence for asphalt plant near the Waimea River (with Sally Gepp Barrister).

King Salmon, 2021: Assessment of effect for offshore Blue Endeavour salmon farm (with Gascoigne Wicks).

Yili Oceania, 2019–2020: Review of effects of proposed ocean outfall for dairy factory near Waimate.

Hutt City Council, 2018–2020: Recreation assessment and evidence for coastal shared path proposal in the Eastern Bays (with Stantec).

Auckland Council, 2020: Effects assessment and evidence for Te Whau shared path.

Ponui Aquaculture Ltd, 2020: Evidence for proposed marine farm, Firth of Thames (with Gascoigne Wicks).

Ohinau Aquaculture Ltd, 2020: Evidence for proposed spat farm in Mercury Bay (with Gascoigne Wicks).

Wellington Water, 2018–2019: Review of options for location of cross-harbour water supply pipeline (with Stantec).

Wellington International Airport Ltd, 2015–2020: Assessment of effect of runway extension and sea defences renewal.

Auckland Council, 2016–2019: Assessment and evidence for Orewa seawall consent application (with T&T).

Simcox Quarry, 2019–2020: Review of effects of quarry trucks on recreation in the road corridor.

Port Gore, 2017: Expert evidence in relation to marine farming, Marlborough Sounds.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, 2017–2018: Assessment for SH3 Mt Messenger roading by-pass.

Lyttelton Port Company, 2013–2018: Review of effects of port deepening project and cruise ship berth development.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, 2017: Assessment for Petone Interchange development.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, 2017: Evidence for Northern Corridor Improvements, Auckland.

Suburban Estates Ltd, 2017: Evidence to QLDC plan review for development by iwi of Sticky Forest in Wanaka.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, 2016–2018: Review of Additional Waitemata Harbour Crossing for designation and coastal permit.

Mt Maunganui Dive Club, 2016–2017: Evidence for Rena consent appeal.

Clearwater Mussels Ltd, 2015: Assessment for plan change in Marlborough Sounds for marine farm.

Refining New Zealand, 2014–2017: Review of effects and evidence for Marsden Point port development.

CentrePort, 2014–2017: Review of effects of Wellington port development.

Trans-Tasman Resources, 2013–2015: Review of recreation and tourism effects of iron sand mining proposal off the South Taranaki Coast (with Argo Environmental) and presentation to EPA.

Peninsula Bay Joint Venture, 2016: Evidence for plan change proposal for Wanaka subdivision.

Silver Fern Farms, 2016: Assessment of effect for ocean outfall re-consent.

Harakeke residential development, 2016: Evidence for coastal subdivision in Tasman.

Chin Hill, 2015–2016: Public access review for proposed subdivision near Orewa.

Rena owners and insurer, 2012–15: Review of recreation and tourism effects of wreck removal options.

Auckland Transport, 2015: Assessment of effects on parks for major roading project (Mill Road).

Southland District Council, 2014–2016: Environment Court evidence in relation to the Around the Mountains cycleway proposal.

Fonterra, 2014–15: Review of recreation effects of dairy factory expansion in South Canterbury.

Direction Matiatia, 2014: Expert evidence in relation to a marina proposal on Waiheke Island.

Marlborough District Council, 2012: Expert evidence in relation to salmon farming, Marlborough Sounds.

Buller Coal, 2011–13: Expert evidence in relation to an open cast mine, West Coast.

Nelson Cycle Trails Trust, 2011: Expert evidence in relation to cycleway proposal, Nelson.

South Head Action Group, 2011: Expert evidence in relation to a road stopping, Kaipara.

Port Gore, 2011: Expert evidence in relation to marine farming, Marlborough Sounds.

Fonterra, 2010: Expert evidence for new dairy factory in Darfield.

Moutere Station, 2010: Expert evidence in relation to road stopping proposal, Otago.

Omaha Park Ltd, 2010: Expert evidence for coastal subdivision, Auckland.

Darby Partners Ltd, 2007–10: Presentation of evidence for subdivision at Parkins Bay, Wanaka. Preparation of evidence for Te Arai coastal park development. Review of West Wanaka development.

Port Marlborough NZ, 2010: Survey of current and prospective marina berth holders, recreation assessment of effect for Waikawa marina extension and expert evidence at Council hearing.

Lincoln Land Developments / Ngai Tahu, 2009: Expert evidence in relation to Dairy Block subdivision.

Fiordland Link Experience, 2004–10: Assessment of effects of proposed monorail in conservation area.
Lakes Environmental, 2009: Expert evidence in relation to commercial jet boating on Wilkin River.
Auckland Regional Council, 2009: Bayswater Marina development Environment Court hearing.
Queenstown Airport Corporation, 2009: AEE preparation for gravel extraction on lower Shotover River.
Wairewa Rūnanga, 2006–07: Recreation assessment for proposed Lake Forsyth opening structures.
Landco Ltd, 2007: Presentation of Environment Court evidence for subdivision at Long Bay, North Shore.
Infinity Investments, 2005–06: Expert evidence for two Wanaka subdivisions (Hillend, Peninsula Bay).

**Recreation
research and
planning**

Department of Conservation, 2025: Review of management options for Molesworth Recreation Reserve.
Tasman District Council, 2023–2024: Recreation value assessment of Tasman and Golden Bays to assist marine aquaculture area planning.
Nelson City Council, 2022–2024: Reserve General Policies development drafting.
Koata Ltd and Nelson City Council, 2019–2024: Recreation management planning for private forest.
Christchurch City Council, 2023: Review of options for managing wharf development and use in Akaroa (with Enviser).
Auckland Council, 2022: Review of appeal material for Drury plan change proposal.
Nelson City & Tasman District Councils, 2019–2021: Reserve Management Plan for Saxton Field.
Port Nikau Joint Venture, 2021: Review of reserve development contributions assessment for residential development in Whangarei.
Bathurst Resources, 2019–2023: Visitor survey on Denniston Plateau and recreation access monitoring.
Nelson City Council, 2019: Review of esplanade reserve width requirements for recreation values for all waterways to advise policy in proposed Whakamahere Whakatū Nelson Plan.
Department of Conservation, 2018: Review of visitor management options for Rakau Rangatira project (kauri die-back, Waipoua Forest) (with Boffa Miskell).
Nelson City Council, 2017: Survey of Nelson Marina and boat ramp users
Greater Wellington Regional Council, 2016: Survey of users of the Hutt River Corridor.
Nelson City Council, 2016: Review of Open Space and Recreation Zone provisions for the proposed Whakamahere Whakatū Nelson Plan.
Nelson City Council, 2016: Survey of use of Maitai River ford.
Wellington City Council, 2015: Mount Victoria Masterplan (with Megan Wraight & Associates).
Kaiteriteri Recreation Reserve Board, 2015: Kaiteriteri Recreation Reserve and Kaka Point Historic Reserve Management Plan.
Nelson City Council, 2014–15: Survey of recreational use of Maitai and Roding Rivers.
Christchurch City Council, 2013–14: Survey of recreational and commercial use of 15 marine structures on and around Banks Peninsula.
Tasman District Council, 2012–2014: Regional Open Space Strategy and General Policies.
Meridian Energy, 2012: Survey of recreational use of the Waiau River.
Trustpower, 2007–2011: Surveys of recreational use of the Rangitāiki, Arnold, Wairau and Rakaia Rivers.
Lake Hood, 2007: Survey of Lake Hood residents and visitors (with Tonkin & Taylor).
Christchurch City Council, 2002–07: Visitor surveys for the Port Hills, Spencer Park, Sumner Beach, New Brighton Beach and users of the Avon-Heathcote Estuary.
Clutha River Parkway, 2006: Review of recreation and tourism benefits (with Dr Kay Booth and GHD).
Department of Conservation, 2003–04: National survey to quantify recreation displacement.
Christchurch City Council, 2003: Port Hills Recreation Strategy.
Meridian Energy, Project Aqua, 2001–02: Recreation survey of the Waitaki River and door-to-door survey of Waitaki Valley residents for AEE for recreation and community.

**Energy and
river-related**

Westpower, 2012–current: Investigations and evidence for Waitaha River hydro proposal.
Manawa Energy / Trustpower, 2005–current: Effects assessment work and evidence on four proposed and 11 existing hydro schemes (including Kuratau, Mangahao, Arnold, Coleridge, Wairau, Pātea, Mangahao, Matahina, Motukawa, Mangorei, Beaumont, Wheao, Kaimai and Kaniere). Wind farm impact assessments in Whanganui and Central North Island.
Meridian Energy, 2004–2025: Assessments of effect and evidence presentation for seven hydro schemes (including Pūkaki, Waitaki, Mokihinui, Manapouri, Waiau), three wind farms (including Project Hayes) and two irrigation proposals. Review of Waitaki Catchment Water Allocation Regional Plan, preparation and presentation of evidence to Waitaki Water Allocation Board, and 2025 consenting of Waitaki Scheme.
Lochindorb Wind Limited Partnership, 2023–2025: Assessment of wind farm effects near Balclutha.
Otago Regional Council, 2022–2024: Regional outstanding waterbodies assessment (with Prof Ken Hughey).

Hawke's Bay Regional Council, 2023–2024: Evidence for PPC7 relating to assessment methods for outstanding water bodies.

Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment / DOC, 2021: Recreation assessment for Lake Onslow/Aotearoa/NZ battery project.

Genesis Energy, 2021–2023: Effects assessment of operation of Tekapo hydro scheme for re-consenting.

Wairarapa Water, 2020–2021: Effects assessment for water storage scheme near Masterton.

Amuri Irrigation, 2018–2021: Review of effects of proposed irrigation infrastructure and water take, Hurunui River.

Ngaruroro River Water Conservation Order, 2017–2020: Analysis of recreation significance and evidence for Hastings District Council and Horticulture NZ.

Rangitata Diversion Management Ltd, 2015–2020: Review of effects of water storage and abstraction on Rangitata River, including proposal for an artificial whitewater feature.

Otago Regional Council, 2019–2020: Visitor survey of Manuherekiā River and review of recreation values of Manuherekiā River and Dunstan Creek.

Alliance Maitāura, 2018–2019: Survey of recreation use of Maitāura River and review of discharge effects for consent renewal.

Otago Regional Council, 2017–2019: Social values assessments for the Arrow and Clutha catchments to support regional planning for water quantity.

Environment Canterbury, 2018: Recreation assessments for four rivers for the Braided River Management & Certainty (BRIDGE) Project (with Boffa Miskell).

Outstanding Freshwater Bodies project, 2015–2016: Development of methods for identifying nationally outstanding rivers for recreation (with Golder Associates for Auckland and Hawke's Bay Regional Councils)

Environment Canterbury, 2015: Preparation of resource document and RiVAS assessment for jet boating in Canterbury (with Dr Ken Hughey and Rob Gerard).

Silver Fern Farms, 2014: Expert evidence in relation to a discharge into the Waimakariri River.

Waimea Water Augmentation Committee, 2010–13: Recreation assessment for irrigation/flow augmentation proposal (with Tonkin & Taylor).

Hurunui Water Project Ltd, 2009, 2011–13: Recreation AEE for water storage scheme on Hurunui River.

Pioneer Generation, 2009–12: Evidence for Kawarau Water Conservation Order for Nevis River.

Mighty River Power, 2011: Assessment of effects for wind farm proposal (Puketoi).

Genesis Energy, 2010–12: Assessment of effects for wind farm proposal (Castle Hill).

Contact Energy, 2011: Review of hydro options on Clutha River.

Environment Canterbury, 2010: Review of Opihi/Opuha irrigation area within Canterbury Water Management Strategy (through Golder Associates and with Lindis Consulting).

Norske Skogg, Tasman JV, 2010: Expert evidence for mill discharge on Tarawera River.

MainPower, 2008–11: Mount Cass wind farm consent application recreation assessment and evidence.

Lincoln University, 2009–10: *A Significance Assessment Method for River Values*, peer review of main report and activity-specific reports.

Fish & Game Council, Canterbury, 2009: Hurunui River Water Conservation Order evidence.

Environment Canterbury, 2005–06: Visitor survey for lower Waimakariri River.

Central Plains Water Trust, 2006: Recreation development planning for proposed irrigation scheme (with Steve Gurney and GHD).

King Country Energy, 2005: Expert evidence for proposed Mokau River hydro scheme.

Bay of Plenty Energy, 2005: Assessment of effects for proposed upper Kaituna River hydro scheme.

Contact Energy, 2005: Expert evidence for Clyde and Roxburgh hydro scheme re-consenting.

Hurunui Community Water Scheme, 2004: Assessment of effects for preliminary irrigation proposal.

Environment Canterbury, 2000–01: Recreation survey of the Hurunui River and assessment of significance.

Ministry for the Environment, 1998: Recreation section of *Flow guidelines for instream values* river management guide.

ECNZ, 1998: Recreation research for resource consents for Tongariro Power Diversion Scheme (with Kay Booth & Boffa Miskell Ltd).

Journalism More than 100 articles published in over 30 magazines and newspapers in Australasia and Asia since 1989. Interviews on over 20 radio stations for outdoor events and outdoor management issues. Instigated and appeared on two Television NZ items for outdoor recreation activities. Authored various publications, including the updated Tongariro National Park Handbook and the Samoa Visitors Bureau 'What to do and see' guide. Several hundred photos published in books and magazines in New Zealand and Asia. Editor of Mary Hobbs' books *Kiwi Tucker for the soul* and *Letters to America*, and story editor for *NZ Outside* (1996-2001).

BACKGROUND

Awarded the Ian Galloway Memorial Cup by the New Zealand Recreation Association in 2004: *To recognise excellence and outstanding personal contribution to the wider parks industry.*

Education *Diploma in Parks and Recreation Management (Distinction)*; Lincoln University 1987.
Postgraduate study in conservation management – 18 months, Lincoln University 1988 – 89.

Professional training and associations Accredited Recreation Professional and Fellow of Recreation Aotearoa.
Project Co-ordinator, National Parks & Reserve NZ Lands and Survey Rangers' Archive, 2023 – current.
See: <https://parkrangersnz.recollectcms.com/>
Chair of Nelson Marina Advisory Committee to the Nelson City Council, 2021 – 2023, Deputy from 2017.
Member of New Zealand Association for Impact Assessment, ex-executive member, 2006 – current.
Member, inaugural Sport NZ Sir Edmund Hillary Outdoor Recreation Council, 2009 – 2013.
National Executive of Recreation Aotearoa, 2000 – 2005 (member since 1990). Previously Chair and currently member of Recreation Aotearoa Board of Accreditation for member accreditation to professional status.
Member of Cashmere Forest Park Campaign for the Port Hills Park Trust Board, 2005 – 2011.
Member of Board of Management, Styx River Living Laboratory Trust, 2002 – 2006.
Introduction to Māori language, University of Canterbury, 1996.

Selected conference papers and articles *Mapping recreation: A costly dangerous mess?* Recreation Aotearoa National Conference, Queenstown 2016.
Assessing recreation in coastal plans – a case study of the Lyttelton Port Recovery Plan. NZ Association for Impact Assessment annual conference, Lincoln University 2016.
Keynote speaker. NZRA Coastal Recreation Seminar, Wellington 2014.
Christchurch 2025. Lincoln Planning Review. Vol 3. No 1. 2011.
The RMA and Recreation. Thinking Recreation – Recreation Aotearoa National Conference, Nelson 2011.
Recreation and tourism impact assessments: Rivers. Resource Management Law Association national conference, Christchurch 2010.
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