

What about the Hawke's Bay Mountain Bike Club?

As most people involved in this process to date are aware, Eskdale Park has been identified by the Hawke's Bay Mountain Bike Club (HBMBC) as an optimal location from which to access new mountain bike trails being constructed on private land owned by Pan Pac, opposite the Park.

It was this public expression of interest that was the principal driver for the preparation of this Management Plan.

Given this, it is appropriate that the Management Plan provide direction as to how Council would deal with an application for a footbridge between Eskdale Park and the Pan Pac land, should one be received. It provides assurances to the community on how such an application would be processed, and where the placement of such an activity may be considered within the Park.

Community consultation identified a number of concerns related to the idea including: safety of vehicles accessing the Park off the State Highway, the impact increased use may have on the Park's peace and tranquillity, misinformation that trails were going to be built on the park, concern that the footbridge would be for the exclusive use of club members only, and the impact of a footbridge on the Esk River. Those in support of accessing the trails from Eskdale Park suggested making use of the land currently leased for private use.

Discussion with various stakeholders identified that the above concerns from the community could be addressed as follows:

- A Traffic Impact Assessment has shown increased vehicle movements off Yule Road can be accommodated provided a full assessment and the approval of Waka Kotahi obtained. This means that it may be possible to locate the footbridge away from the current recreation area of Park, by locating it in the land currently leased for private use. This is consistent with a community desire for the leased land to be made available for public use. A copy of the Traffic Impact Assessment is available to read on the Council website.
- The structural integrity of a footbridge and potential impact on the river would be addressed via Building and Resource Consents from Hawke's Bay Regional Council and Hastings District Council
- Both Pan Pac and HBMBC agree that any footbridge should be available for wider public use to access the river and a walkway across the river – which would provide enhanced public recreation value to the whole community, not just mountain bike club members

In consideration of all the issues, and investigations with key stakeholders and agencies, the Draft Management Plan identifies (a) where a footbridge may be acceptably located on the Park; and (b) what process would need be followed, if an application for this use was to be received by Council.

Where may a footbridge be acceptable?

The Concept Plan identifies an 'Active Recreation Zone C', within the land currently leased for private use, as an area where such a footbridge could be located.

Any activity related to the mountain bike trails across the river (footbridge and carparking) would only be supported in this zone, which is approximately three per cent of the total park area. It is proposed that the remaining part of this land currently leased for grazing (over 4ha) be restored to indigenous forest.

Council acknowledges the concerns of some members of the community relating to safety of vehicles accessing this land off Yule Road; and the impact of a structure on the Esk River. These concerns would be addressed via the requirement of the applicant to follow the process identified below.

What process would need to be followed should an application be received?

It would be the applicants' responsibility to:

- a) apply for and obtain resource and building consents from the Hawke's Bay Regional Council and Hastings District Council, including any required consultation and/or approval from Waka Kotahi and Kiwi Rail;
- b) consult and obtain approval from Maungaharuru Tangitū Trust and Mana Ahuriri Trust
- c) achieve a formal agreement with PanPac that any footbridge would be available for public pedestrian access to the privately owned land along the riparian margin of the Esk River opposite the Park

The purpose of (c) is to ensure that the footbridge would provide wider community benefit, rather than just to members of a particular club.

It is noted that the construction of mountain bike trails will not be permitted in any part of Eskdale Park.

It is also noted that any footbridge all required resource and building consents would be fully funded by the applicant, not Council.



Are the above proposals final?

No. The above proposals are included in the Draft Management Plan which was adopted by Council for consultation purposes on 2 July 2022. The community now has the opportunity to make submissions, and let us know if they agree or disagree what is being proposed.

Key Questions and Answers

1. Has Hawke's Bay Mountain Bike Club lodged an application with Hastings District Council to use any part of Eskdale Park?

No

2. Does Hawke's Bay Mountain Bike Club need approval from Hastings District Council to use any part of Eskdale Park?

Yes

3. What will happen if the Hawke's Bay Mountain Bike Club does apply to Hastings District Council to use any part of Eskdale Park?

The Draft Eskdale Park Reserve Management Plan identifies the process that the Hawke's Bay Mountain Bike Club would need to follow, including identification of approvals from other statutory parties. The same rules apply to any group or organisation wanting to apply to Council to use any part of the park.

4. Does the Draft Eskdale Park Reserve Management Plan allow for the Hawke's Bay Mountain Bike Club proposal on the Park?

No, the Draft Eskdale Park Reserve Management Plan identifies the process that the Hawke's Bay Mountain Bike Club would need to follow, including identification of approvals from other statutory parties and, if those approvals were obtained, where on the Park such activities may be deemed acceptable. The Hawke's Bay Mountain Bike would still need to submit an application to use the Park, and provide sufficient information to enable an assessment of the activity on the park and park users.

5. If no application has been received, why does the Draft Reserve Management Plan address the issue at all?

Because the Hawke's Bay Mountain Bike Club has expressed an interest in using a part of Eskdale Park to access trails on privately owned PanPac land across the river. Given this, and the clearly expressed public interest in such use, it is important that the Management Plan address how it would assess such an application should one be received, to provide certainty to the community and the Bay Mountain Bike Club.

6. Does the Hawke's Bay Mountain Bike Club want to construct trails on Eskdale Park?

No. The Hawke's Bay Mountain Bike Club has expressed interest in using part of Eskdale Park to locate a footbridge and carpark to access the trails across the river. The Draft Management Plan confirms that the construction of mountain bike trails in the park would not be supported.

7. Has Hastings District Council followed the legislative requirements of the Reserves Act 1977 in the preparation of the Draft Eskdale Park Reserve Management Plan?

Yes, Hastings District Council has strictly followed the legislative requirements of Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977 in the preparation of the Draft Eskdale Park Reserve Management Plan. This requires that Council notify its intention to prepare a Reserve Management Plan in a public notice in the newspaper, and take into account any feedback received in the preparation of the Draft Management Plan.

