

Your Comment¹ on the Kōpū Marine Precinct

All sections of this form with an asterisk (*) are mandatory.

1. Contact Details

Please ensure that you have authority to comment on the application on behalf of those named on this form.

Organisation name (if relevant)	New Zealand Walking Access Commission Ara Hikoi Aotearoa		
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2. *We will email you draft conditions of consent for your comment

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I can receive emails and my email address is correct	<input type="checkbox"/>	I cannot receive emails and my postal address is correct
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3. Please provide your comments on this application

If you need more space, please attach additional pages. Please include your name, page numbers and the project name on the additional pages

Introduction

The New Zealand Walking Access Commission Ara Hikoi Aotearoa (the Commission) is the Crown agent responsible for providing leadership on outdoor access issues.

The Commission has a team in Wellington and a network of regional field advisors. An independent board governs our work. Our governing piece of legislation is the *Walking Access Act 2008*. The Commission works with community trails groups, iwi, landowners, and others to create access opportunities across the motu. Our role is to provide advice on free, certain, enduring, and practical access to the outdoors.

¹ If you do not use this form to write your comment please attach this form with the personal details filled out to your comment.

We administer a national strategy on outdoor access, including tracks and trails. We provide information to the public, oversee a code of responsible conduct in the outdoors, help to resolve access issues and negotiate new access. The public access layers on our Walking Access Mapping System provide the most comprehensive spatial capture of publicly accessible areas.

We support the creation, maintenance, enhancement, and promotion of outdoor access, for recreation, culture, for safety, health and wellbeing, and for environmental improvement.

Kōpū Marine Precinct access comments

The Commission notes that the Hauraki Rail Trail (HRT) traverses the Kōpū Marine Precinct project area. HRT is used by both cyclists and walkers and according to HRT this section of the trail attracts a large number of walkers. It is important that with the forecast increase in vehicular traffic, that the area is safe and welcoming for all trail users.

The Commission understands that trail users will be diverted along an approximately 200 metre bypass when large vessels are being moved into the Precinct. It is important the trail route is respected and that trail users are only expected to use the bypass when large vessels are being moved.

Disruptions to the trail route could have an adverse effect on the reputation of the trail. The applicant is encouraged to ensure that there is minimal disruption to HRT and any disruptions are well communicated.

Legal Roads also traverse the project area. It is noted that the documentation includes an intention to form unformed portions of King Street and widen Quay Street and no road stoppings are mentioned. The Commission encourages the applicant to incorporate cycle and pedestrian friendly infrastructure as part of roading design and formation.

There appears to have been little consultation with recreational users. As a consequence, there seems to be a lack of clarity on what facilities will be in place for recreational users - principally recreational fishermen. Currently there are limited facilities, but how the recreational facilities will be treated under the Precinct plan is difficult to interpret.

The Commission concurs with the main points made in the letter of support from the Coastguard. We urge inclusion of requirements for infrastructure to support recreational boating access, specifically all-tide safe public access from a pontoon or similar to mitigate the danger to boaties from entering the water in either incoming or outgoing tidal conditions.