

Council Consultation on Beach access for vehicles is coming!

Following an earlier community petition (2021) that a new vehicle access to Waikawa Beach be established, Horowhenua District Council commissioned a study of possible access options and prepared a report on those options. A workshop for councilors was held in September and a full council meeting in early October. The report was discussed, and council then voted on the options that will be presented to the community for consultation.

What is not necessarily widely known is that the existing vehicle access at the end of Manga Pirau Street crosses privately owned land and it is only the generosity and community spirit of the owners that has allowed vehicular access to Waikawa Beach for over 50 years.

The following were the various options that the council discussed and voted on to take to the community for consultation.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 That Report 23/720 Waikawa Beach Vehicle Access be received.
- 3.2 That this matter or decision is recognised as not significant in terms of S76 of the Local Government Act.
- 3.3 That Council consults with the community on **Option 1: Install new vehicle bridge and track at Waikawa Beach Road**
And/or
- 3.4 That Council consults with the community on **Option 2: Establish a new access between 47-49 Manga Pirau Street**
And/or
- 3.5 That Council consults with the community on **Option 3: Utilisation of current vehicular access with lease agreement and provision of maintenance budget without application for river training**
And/or
- 3.6 That Council consults with the community on **Option 3a: Utilisation of current vehicular access with lease agreement and provision of maintenance budget including an application for river training.**
And/or
- 3.7 That Council consults with the community on **Option 4: Establish new vehicle access adjacent to 10 Reay Mackay Road**
And/or
- 3.8 That Council consults with the community on **Option 5: Utilization of existing pedestrian access at 60 Reay Mackay Grove**
Or
- 3.9 That the Council note this report but takes no further action.

The council decided to consult the community on three options, one of which is not listed but was raised by one councilor and adopted. The options that will be presented to the community for consultation are points 3.5 (option 3) and 3.6 (option 3a). The additional option was that there be no vehicular access to Waikawa Beach. All other options were rejected for various reasons.

Therefore, the options on which the council will consult are as follows:

- That the only vehicular access to Waikawa Beach will remain as is (Manga Pirau Street).
- The council will assume responsibility for establishing and maintaining the access subject to it entering into a lease arrangement with the owners of the land that is satisfactory to both parties.
- If such a lease arrangement can be agreed upon the options then are for the access to be established with or without council also undertaking to cut the river periodically to prevent erosion of the vehicle access. (2 options- with river cut, without river cut)
- That no vehicular access to Waikawa Beach be established/maintained.

The WBRA will keep you informed about the consultation process when we know the details.

In the meantime, please be aware that while the council are in this consultation process, any attempts to create new tracks to access the beach, particularly over private land, are likely to be detrimental to continuing vehicle access.

If you would like more detail the following are links to the council workshop and meeting.

Council workshop 6th September <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VcEXGeUxmpY&t=6722s>

Council Meeting 11th October view at – submission start at 30mins - [Live Council Meetings - Horowhenua District Council](#)