

Report



DATE: 11 February 2020

TO: Capital Projects and Tenders Committee

FROM: Chief Executive

WEST COAST WILDERNESS TRAIL – GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Committee to establish a West Coast Wilderness Trail Sub-Committee.
- 1.2 This issue arises from the need to put in place a Governance Structure that provides overarching direction for the West Coast Wilderness Trail (WCWT) and a conduit that the West Coast Wilderness Trail Trust reports to.
- 1.3 Council seeks to meet its obligations under the Local Government Act 2002 and the achievement of the District Vision adopted by the Council in May 2018, which are set out in the Long Term Plan 2018-28. These are stated on Page 2 of this agenda.
- 1.4 This report concludes by recommending that Council establish a West Coast Wilderness Trail Sub-Committee.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The West Coast Wilderness Trail (WCWT) is one of 23 Great Rides that forms the NZ Cycle Trail Nga Haerenga network across New Zealand.
- 2.2 The WCWT is a member of NZ Cycle Trails Nga Haerenga Inc. As part of that the trail is able to operate the Official Partners Programme. The programme aims to build the profile of the NZCT brand and the individual Great Rides that make up the NZCT; increase the turnover for New Zealand businesses that provide related goods or services; and generate increased downstream economic benefits to regional communities.

- 2.3 The trail is approximately 136km long and spans the Grey and Westland districts. It was officially opened at Labour Weekend, October 2015.
- 2.4 The Westland Wilderness Trust has been the Council Organisation responsible for providing governance oversight while the WCWT was being constructed.
- 2.5 With the completion of the WCWT, a new model of trail governance is required, with input from business owners and operators who are providing support to the trail.

3 CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 The current situation is that there is a Westland Wilderness Trust which has not met since 24 November 2015. The Trustees consists of various representatives and there is a Trust Deed in place.
- 3.2 The West Coast Wilderness Trail Trust has no direct affiliation with council other than an operational level. The WCWT Trust has been operating successfully in promoting the trail, managing the activities on the trail, chasing sponsors and providing information on customer feedback. The objects and purposes of the Trust are listed on page 2 of the Trust Deed, but the Trust's main purpose is *"To actively promote, develop and manage the "business" of the trail in such a way that it can fulfil its potential as a strong and sustainable contributor to the social, cultural, environmental, educational and economic well-being of the West Coast."*
- 3.3 The Assessment Management Plan (AMP) for the WCWT is being drafted and due for completion by May 2020.

4 OPTIONS

- 4.1 Option 1 is that the Sub-Committee be formed.
- 4.2 Option 2 is that the Sub-Committee not be formed.

5 SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

- 5.1 This item is deemed to be of medium significance as the Sub-Committee is required to oversee funding and maintenance of the West Coast Wilderness Trail.

6 ASSESSMENT OF OPTIONS (INCLUDING FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS)

- 6.1 Option 1 is the preferred option to enable the Council to work with key stakeholder groups in a formal committee structure to provide the future

direction and priorities of the WCWT. The Sub-committee will work closely with council staff to ensure the Asset Management Plans meet the overall objectives of council.

This option will also provide a conduit for the West Coast Wilderness Trail Trust to feed in the information via the Trail Manager on the trail performance, customer feedback and the promotion of the trail in general.

Review the requirement for the existing Westland Wilderness Trust – this will be reviewed as a report to full council in the future.

- 6.2 Option 2 is not the preferred option as the current structure is currently not actively working. With the formation of the Capital Projects and Tenders Committee we have an increased focus on the performance of our assets and a subcommittee with all the relevant stakeholders is the vehicle for making this happen.
- 6.3 The financial implication of having a Sub-Committee is minimal and will result in staff time being allocated effectively. Any future enhancement work must include project management costs to ensure staff time is not affected other than normal daily operational issues.

7 PREFERRED OPTION(S) AND REASONS

- 7.1 Option 1 is the preferred option to enable the governing body (Capital Projects and Tenders Committee) to actively discuss and drive the future of the WCWT along with all relevant stakeholders. It will provide a conduit for WCWT Trust to report to. Provide direction for the WCWT AMP to lock down future investment requirements.

8 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- A) **THAT** Council establish the West Coast Wilderness Trail Sub-Committee.

Simon Bastion
Chief Executive

Appendix 1: West Coast Wilderness Trail Governance Structure

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West Coast Wilderness Trail Governance Structure

