



5 August 2007

Gill Peacey
The Management Planner
Department of Conservation
Private Bag 5
Nelson 7010

Dear Gill

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the review of the Kahurangi National Park Management Plan.

The Cycling Advocates' Network (CAN) is a national organisation which advocates for non-competitive cyclists, including cycle tourists. We have expressed an interest in the past in a cycling link from Golden Bay to the West Coast. The Heaphy Track provides such a link, and makes the quiet roads of Golden Bay and the northern West Coast more open to cycle touring. It is a link that has proven popular in the past, either as a North-South link or as part of a loop around the northern South Island.

Because of the 'Great Walk' status of the Heaphy Track, and its high use during the summer, CAN suggests that it be open to cyclists from the first day after the Easter break to the last day before the Labour weekend break.

CAN suggests that press releases, pamphlets, signs, and websites be used to ensure that all users are well aware of the seasons during which cyclists are banned or permitted access. We also suggest that media be used to promote good etiquette amongst users (including the practice of cyclists giving way to walkers).

We are aware that some New Zealanders (including some of our members) anticipate that there might be problems with sharing the Heaphy Track with cyclists. We therefore suggest that cyclist access to the track be for an initial year's trial and a review be undertaken at the end of it to identify any problems and seek to address them.

Many of our members look forward to the opportunity of riding through the Heaphy Track. It is part of a cycle touring route with excellent scenery, warm communities and relatively little traffic.

Regards

Robert Ibell
Chairperson

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