

## Press Release - National Cycleway Project Proposal Outcomes

The Ministry of Tourism has this morning released the details of the 13 successful applicants that have progressed through the concept phase and been included in the Nga Haerenga, The New Zealand Cycle Trail project feasibility Study Phase.

Ashburton District's bid, presented in December has been unsuccessful at moving to the next phase of the government funded project.

Ashburton District Tourism General Manager, Nigel Birt "is obviously disappointed at the outcome as many hours of hard work by many individuals had gone into getting our district cycleway concept proposal to this point. Putting the disappointment aside however, the framework that the Braided Waters Cycleway Trust committee followed to present a case to central government has enabled the group to focus the vision and gain a lot of traction within the district. There is no arguing that a cycleway within the district will be a great tourism and community asset. This process has created a large amount of community support and the committee has always intended to continue with the district project regardless of today's announcement outcome. Now we just need to review and explore other funding avenues and partnerships as the trail develops. The vision is still in place and we intend to achieve that vision. Our end goal is to have a district cycleway, and get it to a level that it can be included in the National Cycleway Brand at a latter date - It is possible to be added to the National Brand in the future, we just miss some of the funding opportunities in the meantime." Mr. Birt says.

Thirteen cycle trails got the nod today to go through to feasibility studies for inclusion in Nga Haerenga, The New Zealand Cycle Trail project.

They are:

- Tauranga Moana Coastal Cycle Trail (Tauranga)
- Old Motu Coach Road (Opotiki/Gisborne)
- Thermal by Bike (Rotorua)
- Lake Track (Taupo)
- Mountains to Sea Cycleway – link (Ruapehu)
- Heretaunga Ararua: Land of a Hundred Pathways (Hawkes Bay)
- Dun Mountain and Tasman Cycle Loop (Nelson/Tasman)
- Old Ghost Road (West Coast)
- Westland Wilderness Trail (Greymouth)
- Alps to Ocean Cycle Trail (Mt Cook)
- The Wakatipu Trail (Queenstown)
- Roxburgh Gorge Trail (Central Otago)
- Clutha Gold Trail (Otago)

Regarding the unsuccessful applicants, Mr Dunn (Programme Manager National Cycleway Project) says the Technical Assessment Group was particularly keen that the considerable investment made by the communities in their proposals was not lost. He says many of the trails deserve to be built and encouraged the applicants to explore other funding mechanisms and options to support their vision.

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