

## **New Zealand Cycle Trail information**

### **1. Background to the Cycle Trail Project**

On 27 February 2009 the government held the Jobs Summit. The aim of the Summit was to generate ideas to help retain jobs during the global economic crisis.

One of these ideas was the establishment of a cycle trail running the length of the country. The objective would be to create jobs whilst creating a long-term national asset, both for New Zealanders and to enhance our reputation as a premium tourist destination.

Following the Job Summit, Cabinet gave responsibility for progressing this work to the Minister of Tourism. The Ministry of Tourism was given the job of lead agency for the Cycle Trail Project.

Differing options were assessed and it was soon realised that a network of cycle trails ('Great Rides') was a stronger option. The 'Great Rides' will be based around New Zealand's iconic attractions. Also, the 'Great Rides' will tap into existing regional and local government community based initiatives that are already underway.

On 20 April 2009, Cabinet agreed to the recommendations for the development of the New Zealand Cycle trail Project.

### **2. What is the vision of the New Zealand Cycle Trail?**

#### **Vision:**

"To generate lasting economic, social and environmental benefits for our communities through a network of world-class cycling experiences"

### **3. How did you decide which tracks should become 'Quick Starts'?**

Following the Jobs Summit, Government announced \$50m to create a series of 'Great Rides' throughout New Zealand.

In order to be able to begin construction as quickly as possible, in time for the summer construction season, a Quick Start programme was implemented.

The current status of the Seven Quick Start Trails is:

- **Waikato River Trails** – final 41km due for completion by September 2010, resulting in a 100km multi-day scenic ride in time for Rowing World Cup 2010. Approximately \$3m has been committed by the New Zealand Cycle Trail fund, with co-funding also secured from Mighty River Power.
- **Hauraki Rail Trail** – feasibility work commenced on two linked trails, Paeroa to Waihi and Paeroa to Thames, and results of study expected to be submitted to the Ministry of Tourism by 18 December 2009.

- **The Far North** – The feasibility study has commenced on potential 90km rail trail and engineers have begun evaluating and costing route options. Public consultation and work on the business case has started. Feasibility study expected to be submitted to the Ministry of Tourism by 18 December 2009.
- **Central North Island Rail Trail** – Proposed 60km trail. Further feasibility work is being undertaken to ensure the needs of the target market are being met through the trail design and construction. If approved, total cost of approximately \$4m, with \$1.9m funded by DoC and up to \$2.1m commitment from Cycle Trail Fund.
- **Mountains to the Sea (Tongariro and Whanganui National Parks)** – construction of two new trails to link existing tracks and create 245km Great Ride. Initial phases of construction have already commenced in some sections in Tongariro and Whanganui National Parks. Total cost of \$1,030,000 with \$753,000 from DOC and commitment from NZ Cycle Trail Fund of \$277,000. Expected date of completion is yet to be determined.
- **St James Trail** – 50km mountain bike trail. Construction project manager appointed. Fully funded by Department of Conservation. Expected to be completed by late 2010.
- **Southland/Queenstown Lakes** – feasibility study on potential 175km trail expected to be delivered to the Ministry of Tourism in the week beginning 9 November. Decision on the business case expected by 18 December.

#### **4. When will construction begin on the Quick Start tracks?**

We hope to make use of the 2009/10 summer construction season. Work on some trails is expected to begin in December.

#### **5. What is Phase Two of the Cycle Trail Project?**

This is the second stage of the cycle trail project for which a specific funding process was announced in October. It follows Phase One which was announced in July as the seven Quick Start projects.

#### **6. Is there a cycle trail preference?**

Yes. The cycle trail project is initially focused on developing a series of 'Great Rides'.

They must:

- Meet the objectives and assessment criteria
- Complement our 100% Pure New Zealand brand and help attract international tourists; and
- Give New Zealanders another compelling reason to explore their own country.

The Assessment Criteria requires cycle trails to:

- Meet a market demand (demand must be sufficient to warrant investment in the cycle trail);
- Showcase the best that New Zealand has to offer;
- Meet the objectives of the Cycle Trail Project (generate economic benefits, provide high-quality assets that offer a world-class experience, deliver complementary benefits and engage the community); and
- Develop partnerships and stakeholder support.

## **7. Who can apply?**

Most applicants will be local authorities – especially if Crown land is involved. However, other entities can apply as long as they can demonstrate that they meet the criteria outlined in Part 5.1 of the Guide to the Funding Process.

It is preferable that an applicant is a single legal entity, but an applicant that is more than one party, such as an unincorporated joint venture or a partnership, may be considered.

## **8. Will the government fund an entire cycle trail project?**

No. The Cycle Trail Fund is a limited, contestable fund. The government is looking for proposals that reflect a strong regional partnership approach and a commitment to co-funding. The level of funding for a specific cycle trail project will be decided on a negotiated basis with the applicant.

## **9. Who makes the decisions?**

The Funding Committee makes the decisions at each stage of the process.

The Funding Committee comprises senior officials from the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Economic Development, the New Zealand Transport Agency and the Treasury.

## **10. Who will pay for the ongoing upkeep of the cycle trail?**

The Government will not own, operate or fund the ongoing maintenance of any cycle trails funded from the National Cycle Trail Fund, except in some cases where they are located on land owned or administered by the Crown.

Long-term operational and maintenance costs must be fully met from the applicant (whether from its own resources or other sources).

## **11. What happens next?**

The next set of concept proposals are due with the Ministry of Tourism in December. Decisions on projects that will go through to feasibility will be made in around February next year. We expect that construction on the next set of trails will start by the end of 2010.

**For further information and high resolution photos for media use, visit the Ministry of Tourism website at [www.tourism.govt.nz/cycleway](http://www.tourism.govt.nz/cycleway)**

## **New Zealand Cycle Trail Project – timeline to date.**

### **10 November 2009:**

- Official launch of New Zealand Cycle Trail Project and announcement of the brand, on the banks of the Waikato River.
- Prime Minister's first official visit to South Waikato to launch the project.

**15 October 2009:** The Funding process for Phase 2 of the Cycle Trail project announced by the Ministry of Tourism, and available at [www.tourism.govt.nz/cycleway](http://www.tourism.govt.nz/cycleway)

**14 September 2009:** Market Research Report released by Ministry of Tourism

**27 July 2009:** Sections of 7 Quick Start Tracks announced:

- Hokianga to Opuia/Russell
- Hauraki Plains Trails
- Waikato River Trail
- Central North Island Rail Trail
- Mountains to the Sea (Ohakune to Wanganui)
- St James Trail
- Southland/Queenstown Lakes Around the Mountain Trail

These tracks will undergo further feasibility work. They comprise Phase One of the Cycleway Project.

**14 May 2009:** Government announced that the Budget would allocate \$50m for cycle trail project over three years.

**20 April 2009:** Cabinet agreed to the recommendations for the development of the New Zealand Cycle Trail Project

**27 February 2009:** Government's Job Summit – cycle trail concept first proposed

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