

# **Tasman District Council Kingsland Forest Development Plan**

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## Submitter details

1. Nelson Marlborough Health (Nelson Marlborough District Health Board) (NMH) is a key organisation involved in the health and wellbeing of the people within Te Tau Ihu. NMH appreciates the opportunity to comment from a public health perspective on the Kingsland Forest Development Plan.
2. NMH makes this submission in recognition of its responsibilities to improve, promote and protect the health of people and communities under the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000 and the Health Act 1956.
3. This submission sets out particular matters of interest and concern to NMH.

## General Comments

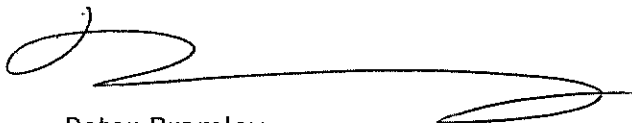
4. Kingsland Forest is well used as a recreational area by local residents and is a great asset for Richmond residents. NMH supports the key outcomes in the Strategy that ensure recreational activities cater to all ages and abilities and barriers to participation are minimised. NMH also supports the Council's intention to maximise natural, cultural and recreational outcomes along with working in partnership with mana whenua iwi and local community.
5. NMH supports forest options that would restore biodiversity, minimise catchment runoff and sediment, retain biking and walking tracks, and lower fire risk.
6. NMH supports the development of a planting plan that provides for reestablishment of native forest on lower compartments and extends the native forest in gullies to the ridge.
7. NMH supports the objectives and actions of the *Catchment Management* section in relation to minimising stormwater flows and sediment load along with improving water quality and habitats.
8. NMH supports the objectives and actions relating to *Landscape Protection and Enhancement*. Providing a range of viewpoints on the walking and biking track network caters for people of different abilities to reach a variety of sites.
9. NMH supports the objectives and actions of *Cultural, Historical and Archaeological Values* section. NMH notes there is an action stating that rongoā (medicinal species) and species used for rārangā (weaving native plants) are available for sustainable harvest. NMH recommends an additional action is added regarding increasing rongoā and species used for rārangā as part of the native forest regeneration.
10. NMH supports the objectives and actions relating to *Biodiversity Restoration* in relation to maintaining and enhancing existing conservation values and actively managing identified threats.

11. NMH supports the objectives and actions relating to *Fire Prevention, Control and Safety*. Any redevelopment adjacent to residential areas needs to incorporate fire breaks to ensure that fire risks are reduced where possible. Consideration should also be given to the provision of water for fire fighting purposes
12. NMH supports the objectives and actions relating to *Recreational Use*.
13. To ensure that people can easily navigate their way around the hills, it would be beneficial if the action relating to improve wayfinding is given higher priority as this would increase the accessibility of the tracks and encourage use.
14. NMH encourages the Council to further develop the mountain bike infrastructure in Kingsland. Silvan Forest provides a good selection of trails which are well suited to families and children, additional trails within Kingsland could complement this network, this would give youth (along with people of other ages) further opportunities to keep active.
15. There are a number of cycle and walking trails in close proximity of each other within the Forest. It is important that shared pathways were wide enough to cater for all users, in addition, in places where paths intersect, it is vital that there is both adequate signposting and clear visibility for users to ensure that conflicts between different users is minimised.
16. NMH was pleased to see that there are plans to install toilets in Easeby Park.
17. NMH supports the installation of picnic tables or benches at hubs and major viewpoints. Richmond's population is ageing and it is important the seating is provided to allow people to rest on tracks. NMH recommends that the distance between benches throughout the Park is assessed, and more seats are provided if necessary.

## **Conclusion**

18. NMH thanks TDC for the opportunity to feedback on Kingsland Forest Survey.
19. NMH **does not wish to be heard** in support of its submission.

Yours sincerely



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