

TE WAIORA



Nelson Marlborough
Health

Nelson City Council
Out and About – On
Tracks Strategy

8 October 2021

For more information please contact:

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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 Nelson City Council's *Out and About –On Tracks Strategy*.
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. NMH supports the vision for the Strategy that Nelson has easily accessible, sustainable off-road tracks that provide enjoyable and safe recreation opportunities for all users as this is beneficial to people's mental and physical health.
5. NMH supports the desired outcomes in regard to contributing to residents' wellbeing, minimising adverse environmental impacts, creating respect between track users and creating an inclusive network.
6. NMH supports the key principles especially in relation to the protection of sensitive areas. Given that some of the tracks are located in the Maitai and Roding catchment areas, source water must be protected when considering new trail proposals. NMH commends NCC for including the critical importance of source water protection within the Strategy.
7. NMH supports the requirement for environmental impact assessment for all new track developments or track enhancement proposals. NMH notes that source water protection is not specifically mentioned as part of this assessment process. *Recommendation:* that source water protection is added to the environmental impact assessment template.
8. NMH notes that the Strategy does not mention fire prevention, control and safety. This is an omission. Any redevelopment of tracks 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. These factors need to be recognised within the Strategy.
9. NMH supports increasing the number of Grade 2 walking/running/cycle trail bike tracks. NMH supports further work on creating a good selection of trails which are well suited to families and children, this would give youth (along with people of other ages) further opportunities to keep active. There is currently a lack of Grade

2 tracks, and novice riders need to use Grade 3 tracks which they may have felt less confident which could a) detract from enjoyment of tracks and discourage riding or b) lead to injuries.

10. NMH supports the upgrades to wayfinding signage across the track network that includes information on toilets. It is important that people can easily navigate their way around the hills, as this would increase the accessibility of the tracks and encourage use.
11. NMH supports separation between biking and walking users at critical pinch points to improve safety for users. There are a number of cycle and walking trails in close proximity of each other. 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 are minimised.
12. NMH supports the establishment of a mountain bike pump track and technical skills park in close proximity to the Maitai Hub and the establishment of off-road Grade 2 links.
13. NMH supports the undertaking of a Physical Accessibility Audit of tracks to achieve a more accessible track network.
14. NMH supports further investigation into the need for more toilet facilities in the network.
15. NMH notes that the Implementation Plan does not include any mention of additional seating, picnic tables at hubs and major view points. Nelson'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

16. NMH thanks NCC for the opportunity to feedback on the *Out and About –On Tracks Strategy*.

Yours sincerely



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