

26 February 2024



Tēnā koe 

I refer to your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 6 February 2024. We have considered the request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) and your questions and responses are listed below.

*1. What is happening with the West Coast Stewardship land review?*

DOC is waiting for direction from the Minister of Conservation regarding this matter. We will provide an update once we have received this.

*2. When will there be a review of the West Coast CMS?*

The review of the Te Tai Poutini West Coast Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) will be initiated during 2024. As previously stated, there will be good opportunity for public consultation both informal and formal.

*3. We understand that Westreef has fixed the culverts/ road leading up to Conns Creek historical area (access to the incline) behind Waimangaroa. But DOC still has a closed sign up. Is that correct? What is the story there??*

Conns Creek Road was damaged during Cyclone Dovi in early 2022. Some remedial work has been undertaken on the protection of the road and historic infrastructure allowing it to reopen to foot traffic, but it is not currently safe for public vehicles. It will remain closed to public vehicles while the work is ongoing.

*4. Can we please have a February 2024 update from DOC on the many tramping tracks/ routes on the Coast that have either been 'closed' by the Department or not receiving any maintenance.*

The tracks are currently closed, or not receiving any maintenance, on the West Coast are:

- Bain Bay Walk – partially closed
- Big River – Inangahua Track – partially closed
- Britannia Track – closed due to extensive damage from Cyclone Dovi
- Caplestone to Kirwans Hut partially closed Track Cyclone Dovi damage

- Charming Creek Track – the southern end of the track is closed due to several large slips (note the northern end is open to Mangatini Falls)
- Cockayne Nature Walk
- Hokitika Gorge Walk partially closed – the swing-bridge is closed, an alternative route is available
- Inglewood Branch Track
- Tram Track – partially closed.

5. *What is the timeframe for the repair of the important bridge over Ngakawau river?*

The Ngakawau Suspension Bridge is currently closed due to safety reasons. The work required is in our capital works programme for funding consideration. There is no confirmed timeframe for this work nor the reopening the bridge at this stage.

6. *What is Phil Rossiter's role at DOC?*

Phil Rossiter is the Project Manager for the Dolomite Point Redevelopment Project.

7. *Does he have any other paid employment with the Department other than "DOC project manager Dolomite Point Experience?"*

As above.

8. *What funds, if any, did DOC give to the Mokihinui Lyell Backcountry Trust last year?*

The Department did not grant any funds to the Mokihinui-Lyell Backcountry Trust for the maintenance of the Old Ghost Road.

9. *How much money does DOC give to MLBT annually?*

The Department does not grant funding to the Mokihinui-Lyell Backcountry Trust annually.

10. *Please notify us of any proposals/ plans for:*

a) *Any new cycleways on public conservation lands especially our National Parks and Ecological Areas on the West Coast/ Arthurs Pass areas.*

DOC has not received any new proposals for cycleways on public conservation lands in the West Coast region over the last year.

b) *Any plans by MLBT for further native vegetation clearance, any development, new structures/ buildings, etc along the historic Mokihinui Pack Track, historic Lyell Dray Road, route of 'Old Ghost Road' and environs.*

DOC has not received any new plans or proposals.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and attached documents may be published on the Department's website.



Nāku noa, nā



Mark Davies  
Regional Operations Director, Western South Island  
Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*