

26 July 2026

Conservation House
18 Manners Street
Wellington 6011
PO Box 10420
doc.govt.nz
Ref: OIAD-8150

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 25 May 2026 in which you asked for:

'A Copy of all Tonkin and Taylor reports and risk assessments relating to the Hahei Beach to Cathedral Cove track since Doc management.

A copy of any and all inspections reports on this track in particular prior to and post Cyclone Gabrielle and after each of the recent weather events where the main track was closed.

A copy of all documents relating to the planned closure of the above stated track.

A copy of the contractor's report that is contributing to the potential closure.

A copy of the Doc risk assessments relating matrix applied to the above track and where it varies from the geotechnical Engineers risk matrix.

Any and all other advice received on the track including any other interested parties.'

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA).

On 23 June we extended the timeframe to respond to your request to 26 June 2026 due to the consultation necessary.

The reports identifying the Hahei Short Walk are provided as per the table below. There have been several publicly available reports on the track which are shared again as part of your request. Communications also include the following:

- <https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2023-media-releases/report-emphasises-risks-of-rockfall-landslides-at-cathedral-cove-hahei/>
- <https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/have-your-say/all-consultations/2026-consultations/waimatagemstone-bay-and-hahei-beach-short-walk/>

A workshop was held on 17 March 2026 to consider next steps for the assets. Minutes from this workshop are provided.

Providing a resilient solution anywhere within the Cathedral Cove Reserve is constrained by the high likelihood that a matrix of surrounding land will also fail, rendering any isolated

improvements unusable. When considered alongside similar risks across other parts of the Reserve, including the main walking access to Mautohe Cathedral Cove, the scale of required repairs presents significant and ongoing financial challenges. Within the context of frequent storms in a vulnerable landscape, DOC has developed an Adaptation Plan which guides investment decision making. Within this framework, the benefits of reinvesting must outweigh the costs of delivering a solution. The Hahei Short Walk track was tested against the Adaptation Plan criteria, and it was determined that the track cannot be sustainably maintained as part of the core visitor experience.

Material in scope of your request is provided and accompanies our response as an Attachment (Items 1 – 11). For a further breakdown of material released please refer to the below schedule of documents table.

Note: Given the level of public interest, a comprehensive decision paper was prepared setting out the relevant information. We have also provided this decision paper for your reference.

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	27 July 2023	20230727 Cathedral Cove Risk Assessment report v3_Optimized	Released in part
2	27 May 2024	20240509 Feasibility assessment report - T+T – May (<i>Hahei short walk extracts</i>)	Released in part
3	21 June 2024	20240621 Cathedral Cove - Landslide monitoring report - 2024 - T+T	Released in part
4	October 2025	Mautohe Cathedral Cove Adaptation Plan	Released in full
5	17 March 2026	Workshop - Hahei Reroute 17 March 2026	Released in part
6	17 March 2026	Notes Hahei Short Walk workshop	Released in part
7	21 March 2026	February 2024 Monitoring update (email)	Released in part
8	6 May 2026	hahei-short-walk-options-paper-may-2026	Released in full
9	8 May 2026	Permanent track removal decision papers - Cathedral Cove recreation reserve (email from project manager in place of contractor's report)	Released in full
10	16 June 2026	Hahei Work Orders AMIS	Released in full
11	16 June 2026	Hahei Short walk maintenance notifications	Released in full

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed above, subject to information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the OIA, as applicable:

- personal information, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people,
- free and frank expression under section 9(2)(g)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the OIA and determined there are no public interests that outweigh the grounds for withholding.

I regret that I cannot provide you with the following documentation under 18(e) of the Official Information Act: *The contractor's report that is contributing to the potential closure* because it does not exist. An email summarising the contractor's advice has been provided instead.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the OIA.

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

[REDACTED]

Nāku noa, nā



Catherine Wilson
Director Heritage and Visitors
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai