

Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Deed of Acknowledgement
Auckland Council
Private Bag 92300, Victoria Street West
Auckland 1142

28 April 2025

Tēnā koutou,

SUBMISSION ON WAITĀKERE RANGES HERITAGE AREA DEED OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We note that the Deed of Acknowledgement is provided for in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Act 2008 (refer sections 29-33).

In preparing this submission we have considered how the four key elements for the Deed of Acknowledgement – as proposed in the Consultation Document - could contribute to securing sustainable public access provision in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area.

The multiple organisations responsible for managing public land within the Heritage Area lack a collective focus on achieving the outcomes set out in the Act. Without a coordinated approach these organisations are unable to grasp the opportunities for sustainable recreation within the heritage area - such as those documented by Te Kawerau ā Maki in the *Waitākere Ranges – Heart of the Ngahere Sanctuary Proposal*.

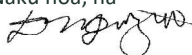
We note too that the Recreation Plan (including a track network plan) for the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park is listed as a spatial planning priority in 2022 Regional Parks Management Plan. This has not materialised, and the lack of a clear plan for future recreation provision is particularly frustrating given the length of time that has elapsed since widespread track closures were instigated for Kauri Dieback management.

We support a joint committee of Council as a way to agree and progress an overarching long term strategic plan for the Heritage Area, develop work programmes to achieve the outcomes of that plan, and conduct joint monitoring of progress.

We would support the joint committee having a coordination role to align efforts, improve communication, and increase collaboration - noting that in our experience community groups and individuals currently struggle to understand who is involved in the provision and management of outdoor public access in the Waitākere Ranges.

We also support the joint committee having an advocacy role - championing the interests of the Heritage Area and raising awareness of its local, regional and national significance; as well as its cultural significance for tangata whenua. This is a key ingredient to building shared understanding and progress towards sustainable, long-term recreation and public access provision.

Nāku noa, nā



Dot Dalziell