



Securing legal public access for trails

Factsheet
April 2026

Mechanism	What it provides	Who administers it	Relevant legislation
<u>Unformed Legal Roads</u>	Public right of access, even if not physically formed.	Local council	Public Works Act 1981, Local Government Act 1974
<u>Esplanade Reserves/ Strips</u>	Public access along coast, lakes, and rivers.	Local council	Resource Management Act 1991
<u>Marginal Strips</u>	Public access and conservation purposes beside waterways.	Department of Conservation	Conservation Act 1987
<u>Access Strips</u>	Secured access over private land for public benefit.	Local council	Resource Management Act 1991
<u>Easements for public access</u>	Negotiated voluntarily. Normally in perpetuity.	Usually a public authority such as a council, DOC or the Outdoor Access Commission	Walking Access Act 2008, Reserves Act 1977 or Property Law Act 2007