



Otago Conservancy recreation opportunities review

Submissions analysis and decisions

OCTOBER 2004



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

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This report is the conclusion of the department's public consultation process 'Towards a Better Network of Visitor Facilities', a Recreation Opportunity Review aimed at confirming with the public the mix of visitor facilities needed to provide the recreational opportunities most desired on public conservation land.

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1. Message from the Conservator

The following report details the content of submissions received by Otago Conservancy as part of the recreation opportunity review public consultation period, and reports on other feedback received through public meetings and discussion with stakeholders during this period.

Submissions have been analysed following advice contained in the Regional General Manager Southern memo of 28 November 2003 'Steps Required to Make Decisions' (wgnro-19584).

Taking account of the submissions and other information received, decisions have been made by Otago Conservancy. These decisions align with the strategic direction as covered by the Principles to Guide a Core Facility Network and the key Policy and Strategic directions referred to within these. Where submissions have identified a preference to vary from this direction, these cases have been noted.

Acting Conservator

Ian Whitwell

2. Executive summary

- Submissions were received from a total of 85 submitters who provided a total of 535 separate submissions representing comment on 120 proposals contained within the Otago Discussion Document.
- Recommendations have been made based on analysis contained within this report resulting in changes to 36 specific asset proposals - including recommendations to change 'minimal maintenance' proposals for 5 huts to 'move to another location'. It is anticipated these changes will improve the quality of recreation opportunities within Otago.
- Otago decisions have been reached taking in to account the outcomes of High Country Tenure Review (HCTR) only where these have reached 'substantive agreement' stage or beyond. Considerably more new recreation opportunities are expected as further outcomes from the HCTR process arrive. These will significantly expand the range and spread of opportunities in Otago.

3. Conservancy overview

Otago offers one of the most complete ranges of recreation opportunities in New Zealand extending almost from coast to coast and characterised by the rugged western alps with both their accessible and wilderness areas, extensive beech forest areas, snow fed rivers and lakes, the semi-arid landscapes and block mountain ranges of Central Otago, temperate coastal podocarp forests in the east, and over 380km of coastline.

The Otago Conservancy covers 13.4% of New Zealand's land area yet only has about 5% of its population, so generally people are few and open space is plentiful. With about 117,000 people, Dunedin City is the population centre for Otago with around 65% of people living in the greater urban area. Six other centres with populations over 1,000 people contribute a further 20% to the population with the remainder spread across the rural heartland. Even though the region has an aging population and one of the lowest proportions of 0-14 year olds, this is somewhat balanced by the influx of young people to the tertiary institutions, including Otago University. These students create a significant demand for and on recreational facilities to cater for their 'free and independent spirit'. Many continue to return to the region long after they have completed their studies.

Recreation and tourism activity is an important aspect of the context for conservation in Otago with Queenstown, the Wakatipu basin, Wanaka and Dunedin showing up as the main centres of attraction. The region provides a range of backcountry tramping opportunities from the 'easy' Routeburn Track through to more challenging adventurer and remote tracks. There is an extensive network of excellent fishing and white-water rivers. Three major ski fields at Coronet Peak, Remarkables and Treble Cone are located on land managed by DOC. In winter there are extensive backcountry heli-skiing opportunities, while cross country skiing occurs on the flatter block mountains. Mount Aspiring National Park provides some of the best relatively undisturbed alpine climbing in New Zealand.

The region offers an extensive network of short and day walk and overnight camping opportunities based on the many historic Otago Goldfields Park sites, along the Haast Highway (S.H. 6), along the Queenstown to Glenorchy road, and in the Catlins and coastal Otago. Other opportunities for hunting, boating, wildlife viewing, swimming and fishing are well spread across the region. The 150km Otago Central Rail Trail enhances the opportunities for mountain biking that currently exist, while new opportunities to cater for horse riding, 4WD activities as well as tramping and mountain biking will arise as high country tenure review progresses.

The Otago Conservancy manages 81 huts, from Great Walk through to historic and musterer's huts, as well as a number of shelters and associated toilets. More than 1,350km of walks and tracks catering for various types of visitors (short walks, walking tracks, tramping tracks and routes), over 1,000 structures of various types (viewing platforms, swing bridges, bridges and boardwalks), more than 200km of vehicle tracks, 67 carparks, 14 camping areas and 48 amenity areas. These are grouped into sites - basic units which guide the Department's management of recreational facilities and services. Otago has over 400 sites.

The Conservancy already provides opportunities and facilities to cater for the full

range of recreational needs for visitors in Otago. Local authorities provide a diverse range of recreational facilities and opportunities based on their urban/urban fringe focus to complement the DOC facilities. Some of the Otago recreation opportunities have links with neighbouring Conservancies like Southland and the West Coast. Examples are the shared management of the Routeburn Track, and short walk and amenity sites near the Haast Pass.

4. Introduction

Public consultation was undertaken as part of the department's recreation opportunity review 'Towards a Better Network of Visitor Facilities'. Consultation was launched on 30th September 2003, with a press release from the Minister of Conservation, and followed by a press release from this conservancy. Letters were sent to local recreation groups and an extensive list of other key associates and contacts inviting them to engage in the public consultation process.

Proposal documents and background resource material were provided as publications and on the DOC website to provide the basis for making submissions.

A briefing was provided for both the Otago Conservation Board and Te Roopu Kaitiaki (Otago Conservancy iwi liaison group).

Section One

5. Submitters and submissions

This section provides information on the number of submissions, the nature of submissions and a description of their content.

5.1 NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS

- 85 submitters provided submissions representing comment on 120 specific proposals.
- Submitters were made up of 40 group submissions with a further 45 submissions from individuals (Table 1).

TABLE 1. NUMBER OF SUBMITTERS BY GROUP

SUBMITTER AFFILIATION	NUMBER OF SUBMITTERS
Individual	45
Tramping/climbing club	11
Environmental group	9
Local Authority	5
Residents groups	3
Visitor Accommodation	3
Hunting club/hunter	2
4wd club/driver	2
Quango	1
Other	4

- Submitters originated from Otago (66), Southland (6), Canterbury (4), Northern North Island (6), Southern North Island (4).
- Nil submissions made direct reference to the Principles to Guide the Core Facility Network (contained in the National Resource Document).
- Seven submissions contained comment that related to regional or national issues, as well as (or instead of) comment on specific proposals.

5.2 MAIN PROPOSALS COMMENTED ON, BY ORDER OF TOTAL SUBMISSIONS

Table 2 summarises the number of submissions received and views (including comments on assets that were not specifically identified through the Otago Discussion Document).

TABLE 2. SUMMARY OF THE 15 MOST FREQUENTLY SUBMITTED ON FACILITIES AND LISTED CONCERNS

ASSET NAME	NO.	SUBMISSIONS
Coastal Otago Area		
Big Hut - Rock and Pillar	30	(25 against/5 for)
Leaning Lodge - Rock and Pillar	26	(23 against/3 for)
Yellow Hut - Silverpeaks	11	(6 against/5 for)
Papatowai Camp Ground	4	(4 against plus 300 signature petition)
Central Otago Area		
Upper Fraser Interp. walk	10	(1 against/9 for)
Wakatipu Area		
Rockburn Hut (McIntyres)	9	(5 against/4 for)
Lake Sylvan walk	8	(2 against/6 for)
Mid Greenstone Hut	8	(1 against/7 for)
Wanaka Area		
Blue/Young link trk	10	(10 for)
Brewster Hut	9	(1 against/6 for)
Young Forks Hut	8	(2 against/6 for)
Albert Burn trk extn	8	(6 against/2 for)
Top Forks Hut	8	(3 against/5 for)
Liverpool Hut	8	(3 against/5 for)
Glacier Burn trk extn	7	(5 against/2 for)
Luggate Creek trk	7	(7 for)

5.3 PROPOSALS NOTIFIED IN THE OTAGO CONSERVANCY DISCUSSION DOCUMENT THAT RECEIVED THE MOST SUBMISSIONS AND SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS BY LOCATION

Table 3 contains a summary of submissions received on facility proposals notified in the Otago Conservancy discussion document (ordered by Area Office, then by park/reserve).

TABLE 3. SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED FOR MOST SUBMITTED ON FACILITY PROPOSALS

PARK/ RESERVE NAME	VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	DOC PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	SUPPORT /SUPPORT IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ OPPOSE IN PART	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS
Coastal Otago Area									
Rock and Pillar CA	48066 48067	Big Hut - R & P (30) and Leaning Lodge R & P (26)	Remove (and not replace)	Discussions need to be held with OTMC over the future of Big Hut. The construction materials and design require significant investigation and OTMC will require a formal agreement with DOC if this hut is to be retained. Leaning Lodge is in a poor state of repair and it is unlikely that it can be brought up to DOC hut standards without considerable cost being incurred.	56	8	0	48	The issues were the same for these two huts. 48 submissions were opposed to the removal and non replacement of these huts from the Rock and Pillar Range. Submitters believed that at least one of the huts should be retained.
Silverpeaks SR	48061	Yellow Hut - Silverpeaks	Remove (and not replace)	Hut is in a poor state of repair and receives little or no use. The proposal for an improved Jubilee Hut will adequately meet the need for overnight accommodation in the Silverpeaks.	11	4	1	6	Submissions were 6 opposed and 4 supportive with 1 neutral. Discussions need to continue with OTMC over the future of the hut.
	100162	Papatowai Camp Ground	Maintain by Community	Motor camp operated under lease from Dept. Investigate options for future long-term management as current sewage system requires significant upgrading to meet current standards. Cost effectiveness of this work outweighs use levels.	4	0	0	4 (incl. petition against closure of camp)	4 submissions opposed were received together with a 300 signature petition all protesting closure of the camp.
Central Otago Area									
	191460	Upper Fraser	Proposed	This poled route will offer an 8km circuit of the upper Fraser basin based on Nicholson's Hut.	10	9	0	1	9 submissions support this new initiative and only 1 opposes.

PARK/ RESERVE NAME	VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	DOC PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	SUPPORT /SUPPORT IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ OPPOSE IN PART	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS
Wanaka Area									
Mount Aspiring NP	192540 191304	Blue/ Young link track (10) Young Forks Hut (8)	Proposed new track	An all-weather access easy tramping track connecting with the Young Valley, and eliminating the need to cross the Makarora River. Replace existing camping shelter at Young Forks with a 20 bunk hut to cater for the increasing use of the Young Valley and the Gillespies Pass Circuit. Provided for in the MANP Plan, 1994.	18	16	0	2	All but 2 submissions supported this proposal.
Mount Aspiring NP	17055	Brewster Hut	Replace - bigger size	Hut is overcrowded by more than 10% of its capacity for greater than 10% of the time with climbers and trampers in summer and ski tourers in winter. There is a relatively quick access from Haast highway to this alpine area (2.5hr) making it an easy location to access.	8	7	0	1	7 submissions supported plans to replace the hut and 1 opposed.
West Wanaka CA	191313	Albert Burn track extension	Proposed	This 8km track is an extension to the existing track from Albert Burn Forks linking to the East Matukituki.	8	2	0	6	Two submissions supported the proposal while the rest (6) did not.
Mount Aspiring NP	16898	Top Forks Hut	Upgrade - size/ capacity	Remove the old hut and increase the capacity of the "newer" hut. The rationale is that instead of maintaining two separate huts we will increase the capacity of the newer one and standardise facilities.	8	5	0	3	Five submissions support and three are opposed to the replacement of the old hut

PARK/ RESERVE NAME	VISITOR FACILITY NUMBER	VISITOR FACILITY NAME	DOC PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	SUPPORT /SUPPORT IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ OPPOSE IN PART	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS
Mount Aspiring NP	17160	Liverpool Hut	Replace - bigger size	Recreational use of West Matukituki Valley is projected to continue to grow. More trampers are overnighiting at Liverpool Hut causing overcrowding for more than 10% of its time by 10% of its capacity in summer. An increase to 10 bunk capacity is proposed.	8	5	0	3	5 supported and 3 opposed the proposal to replace this hut
	191535	Luggate Creek track	Proposed	This is a new opportunity arising out of the High Country Tenure review programme. A 6km access track is to be established.	7	7	0	0	Unanimous support for this track which will be developed as resources allow.
Mount Aspiring NP	191322	Glacier Burn track extn	Proposed	This 2km track will offer a similar opportunity to Rob Roy Track and it is hoped will relieve visitor pressure on the latter.	7	2	0	5	5 opposed and two supported this proposal
Wakatipu Area									
Mount Aspiring NP	18895	Rockburn Hut (McIntyres)	Minimal Maintenance	This hut is within 2 hours of a roadend - is accessible by boat and 4x4 vehicle. It has been flooded on a number of occasions. Future management options for this hut are: replacement prior to retirement date in 2005 OR close and remove once retirement date reached.	9	4	0	5	Views on the future of this hut were split - 5 opposed and 4 supportive

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Mount Aspiring NP	96059	Lake Sylvan Walk	Upgrade to Higher Standard	Intended to upgrade the track to the lake to wheelchair standard. The Disabled League have been supporters of this for some time. The upgrade would require a realignment away from flood prone areas of low lying forest floor.	8	6	0	2	6 supportive and 2 opposed submissions
Mount Aspiring NP	18551	Mid Greenstone Hut	Maintain by Community	The hut was replaced with the new Greenstone Hut at Sly Burn in September 2003; NZDA have expressed an interest to take over the hut as a hunting base in the mid valley for RHA opportunities. Negotiations are currently under way.	8	7	0	1	7 submitters supported the proposal to allow the hut and 1 opposed.

Several submissions from different submitters repeated identical relief and justifications. In terms of analysis, greater weight was afforded to the content of submissions and their bearing relative to the wider context of the review, rather than the number of submissions alone.

A total of 120 proposals notified in the Otago Conservancy discussion document received submissions. Huts received the greatest level of attention from submitters—especially in opposition to the Department’s proposals (4 of the top 6 most opposed asset proposals were in relation to huts). Few submissions challenged hut principles other than to state that some huts do not receive high levels of use because either access is difficult or information is not readily available. Visitor huts are publicised by the Department through a variety of methods including brochures, maps and website information. Other information is readily available through tramping clubs and in publications such as Moirs Guide North.

Of the 200 submissions made directly on the huts listed in the Conservancy discussion document, 80 were ‘opposed’. The largest number of submissions for huts related to proposals to remove three huts on the Rock and Pillar Conservation Area. The proposal to remove the Pyke Camp buildings located within the Olivine Wilderness Area of Mount Aspiring National Park was supported by 4 with 2 opposed. A number of hut proposals for ‘minimal maintenance’ and ‘maintain by community’ received general support.

The number of submissions on tracks was similar to those received on huts - 232, with 73 opposed. The Lake Sylvan track upgrade proposal and the new Blue/Young link track proposal, both in Mount Aspiring National Park, attracted the highest number of submissions, together with the proposed upper Fraser Basin Interpretation walk in Central Otago. In general submitters appear to accept that for tracks in Otago the geographic spread and range of recreation opportunities is appropriate, and that review proposals will not significantly affect the balance that exists currently.

Submitters did offer several new track proposals mainly around the head of Lake Wakatipu which were evaluated against the Otago Conservation Management Strategy and the objectives of the Otago Recreation Opportunity Review. Within the five year scope of this review, it was considered unlikely any of the proposals would be ready to proceed, particularly as emphasis would be given within the first three years to upgrading and bringing to standard the existing network of tracks and walks.

5.4 OTHER SUBMISSIONS ON PROPOSALS

Submitters made general comments on the following:

- The retention of several remote and little used huts for hunters
- The provision of accessible walking opportunities and facilities for people with disabilities
- DOC support (both financial and resourcing) for Trails organisations eg. Wakatipu Trails Trust and Te Araroa.
- Creation of new tracks near Glenorchy, Queenstown and Wanaka

- Provision of more 4WD opportunities
- Maintenance of marking on routes
- A commitment from DOC to facility development in the Catlins to support the tourism infrastructure

5.5 PROPOSALS THAT DID NOT RECEIVE SUBMISSIONS

Many of the proposals that were not submitted on were to do with rationalising the current practice on the ground in terms of management of the site or asset. Because most submissions came from people/communities closely associated with the site/asset they were commenting on, people were aware of the management 'history' of many proposals, a number of which were 'Maintain by Community'.

6. User group meetings

The Conservancy adopted an 'open door' approach to public enquiries which included Area Managers engaging with the public in the process. Meetings were arranged by Areas with local authorities, walking groups and tramping club representatives and other interested parties. These parties followed through with formal submissions highlighting their views and concerns on the Otago proposals.

7. Summary of general points from submissions

Common themes in the submissions were:

- Submitters were generally not in support of reduced maintenance commitments to non-core facilities. Submitters argued that the Department should maintain more huts and backcountry tracks in order to provide for recreational users.
- Many people and community based groups saw the review as an opportunity to lobby for new visitor facilities.
- Submissions from national organisations or people representing national organisations eg. NZ Deerstalkers, NZ Tourism Industry Assn, 4 X 4 Clubs, NZ Motor Caravan Assn, tended to discuss general issues without being specific to Conservancy proposals.
- There were some views that remote and/or very low use huts should be retained irrespective of condition.

- Two territorial local authorities (TLAs) objected to “Maintain by Community” proposals and suggested that, since principle users of facilities in their areas are from overseas, central government should be responsible for managing the facilities rather than expecting ratepayers to meet costs of providing facilities for tourists.
- Several community interest groups stated that the number of ‘new facility proposals’ was unbalanced geographically, and that their area was being/would be disadvantaged.
- We have a number of huts listed as ‘minimal maintenance’, some of which are dilapidated. These will have heritage assessments completed for them before we make any final decisions. There was support for this cautious approach.
- There was criticism that it was because of lack of attention to track or hut condition that we were now proposing either removal or reduced standard of provision.
- The association between some proposals and the possible outcomes of future High Country Tenure Review negotiations was made by several people.

Section Two

8. Making decisions

It is recommended that Proposals are confirmed as decisions (102 cases) except for the following 18 cases where the decision is recommended to be different (Table 4).

TABLE 4. SUBMISSIONS ANALYSIS FOR FACILITIES WHERE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS DIFFER FROM ORIGINAL PROPOSALS

PARK/ RESERVE NAME	VISITOR FACILITY NO. AND NAME	DOC PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSION	SUPPORT/ SUPPORT IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ OPPOSE IN PART	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS	ANALYSIS	DECISION
Coastal Otago Area										
Rock and Pillar CA	48066, 48067 Big Hut - R & P (30) and Leaning Lodge R & P (26)	Remove (and not replace)	Discussions need to be held with OTMC over the future of Big Hut. The construction materials and design require significant investigation and OTMC will require a formal agreement with DOC if this hut is to be retained. Leaning Lodge is in a poor state of repair and it is unlikely that it can be brought up to DOC hut standards without considerable cost being incurred.	56	8	0	48	The issues were the same for these two huts. 48 submissions were opposed to the removal and non replacement of these huts from the Rock and Pillar Range. Submitters believed that at least one of the huts should be retained.	A private Trust has been set up with the aim of upgrading and retaining public access to Big Hut. The Trust is working with DOC to meet hut standards and will seek a formal concession for retaining the hut on this site. With the private Trust now upgrading Big Hut for public use, the proposal to remove Leaning Lodge may become more acceptable. Confirm intention to remove hut subject to any approaches from OTMC on future use.	Owned and Maintained by Community Remove (and not replace)

PARK/ RESERVE NAME	VISITOR FACILITY NO. AND NAME	DOC PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSION	SUPPORT/ SUPPORT IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ OPPOSE IN PART	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS	ANALYSIS	DECISION
	100162 Papatowai Camp Ground	Maintain by Community	Motor camp operated under lease from Dept. Investigate options for future long- term management as current sewage system requires significant upgrading to meet current standards. Cost effectiveness of this work outweighs use levels.	4	0	0	4 (incl. petition against closure of camp)	4 submissions opposed were received together with a 300 signature petition all protesting closure of the camp.	The issue centres around sewage management at the site. Discussions with camp lessee, Clutha DC and ORC are ongoing.	Seeking Community Maintenance (in this case 'community' means the concession- aire) see notes Section 9 also.
Silverpeaks SR	48061 Yellow Hut - Silverpeaks	Remove (and not replace)	Hut is in a poor state of repair and receives little or no use. The proposal for an improved Jubilee Hut will adequately meet the need for overnight accommodation in the Silverpeaks.	11	4	1	6	Submissions were 6 opposed and 4 supportive with 1 neutral. Discussions need to continue with OTMC over the future of the hut.	Confirm intention. Discussions ongoing with OTMC and linked to possible Jubilee Hut replacement.	Remove (and not replace)
	101085 Keens Picnic Area	Maintain by Community	Suggest that this site be managed by Clutha DC in conjunction with Hina Hina Rec Reserve amenity area	2	0	0	2	2 Submissions opposed	Discussions held with Clutha DC.	Maintain by DOC

PARK/ RESERVE NAME	VISITOR FACILITY NO. AND NAME	DOC PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSION	SUPPORT/ SUPPORT IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ OPPOSE IN PART	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS	ANALYSIS	DECISION
	95954 Picnic Gully track	Cease Maintenance	The recreation opportunity at this site is already catered for by the Taiari River Track which receives higher use.	6	0	0	6	6 submissions opposed	Discussions with community group have resulted in agreement for that group to maintain this track	Owned by DOC but Maintained by Community
	101083 Catlins Lake picnic area	Maintain by Community	Suggest that this site be managed by Clutha DC in conjunction with Hina Hina Rec Reserve amenity area	3	0	0	3	3 Submissions opposed	Discussions held with Clutha DC.	Maintain by DOC
Rock and Pillar CA	16138 Unknown Hut	Remove (and not replace)	Former research hut, now surplus to requirements	6	1	0	5	5 submissions opposed to proposal	Hut owned by Alan Mark who will retain it for research purposes under concession from DOC	Owned and Maintained by Community
Central Otago Area										
	96108	Cease	These tracks each	1	0	0	1	1 opposed	The legal agreement	Maintain
	96109 Devils Creek track Mt Koiranga Track	Maintenance	follow existing 4wd tracks that are going to be maintained for management purposes as well as for public foot access	1	0	0	1	1	which created these public access tracks commits DOC to maintain the tracks	Maintain

PARK/ RESERVE NAME	VISITOR FACILITY NO. AND NAME	DOC PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSION	SUPPORT/ SUPPORT IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ OPPOSE IN PART	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS	ANALYSIS	DECISION
Wanaka Area										
West Wanaka CA	191315 Albert Burn track extension	Proposed	This 8km track is an extension to the existing track from Albert Burn Forks linking to the East Matukituki.	8	2	0	6	Two submissions supported the proposal while the rest (6) did not.	Re-mark and cut to route standard from Albert Burn Top Forks Flat to bush line only. We are essentially maintaining the old route through the forest to the bush line, not extending the track as was implied.	Maintain
Hunter CA	16830 Big Hopwood Burn Hut	Remove (and not replace)	Less than 20 visitors per year use this hut. The track to this hut has not been maintained for approx 15 years. During this time there has been minimal or no demand for these facilities.	3	1	1	1	Submissions not conclusive	Retirement date 2010 and level of usage is not expected to increase in the near to medium future. The hut is the only hut within the central eastern area of the McKerrow Conservation Area.	Minimal maintenance
Mount Aspiring NP	191322 Glacier Burn track extn	Proposed	This 2km track will offer a similar opportunity to Rob Roy Track and it is hoped will relieve visitor pressure on the latter.	7	2	0	5	5 opposed and two supported this proposal	Only involves marking and limited cutting of the line visitors presently follow to access the forks and better view points	Proposed

PARK/ RESERVE NAME	VISITOR FACILITY NO. AND NAME	DOC PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSION	SUPPORT/ SUPPORT IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ OPPOSE IN PART	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS	ANALYSIS	DECISION
Wakatipu Area										
Mount Aspiring NP	17959 Pyke Camp Building (dilapi dated)	Remove (and not replace)	Hut constructed by Kennicot Mining Company during asbestos exploration days. Structure now in bad state of repair and located in Wilderness Area of MANP where no structures allowed for in zoning policy.	6	4	0	2	4 support removal while 2 oppose	While there may be some heritage interest in these buildings they are located in a Wilderness Area where human impacts are to be absent as far as possible	Remove (and not replace)
Mt Aurum Rec Reserve	97800 Nuggets Battery track	Cease Maintenance	The track to the Nugget Battery was severely damaged in a series of large landslides in 2000. Access to the battery is now compromised and safety is a major issue. No easy route is now available for day walkers to get to the battery. Reinstatement of the old track is too expensive.	3	1	0	2	1 supported while 2 submissions opposed	On closer consideration another track option at a lower standard does exist	Maintain at lower standard

PARK/ RESERVE NAME	VISITOR FACILITY NO. AND NAME	DOC PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSION	SUPPORT/ SUPPORT IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ OPPOSE IN PART	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS	ANALYSIS	DECISION
Mount Aspiring NP	27470 Old Esquillant bivvy	Maintain at lower standard	The old Esquillant Biv is owned by Southland branch of NZ Alpine Club and has historic significance. There is no intention to remove the hut at this time. It provides overflow accommodation when the newer hut is full.	2	1	0	1	Only two submissions divided equally	By agreement with NZAC, the old hut will be removed as new hut is built to replace it.	Remove (and not replace)
	95911 Arawata Terrace track	Maintain by Community	Under the criteria of the Wakatipu Trails Trust, this track would be best managed by the Trust or QLDC, as it falls under the auspices of an urban trail, and lies within the Trusts agreed basin boundaries.	4	1	0	3	3 submitters opposed and one in support	Part of this track crosses DOC managed land.	Maintain by DOC
	95918 Lake Hayes Foresore track	Maintain by Community	QLDC to maintain track from north end to the A&P Grounds as part of agreement re ongoing maintenance of the sewage line installed 2002/03	2	0	0	2	2 opposed	After discussion with QLDC, DOC will now take over management and maintenance of track, once it meets standards, has consents and approvals.	Maintain by DOC

PARK/ RESERVE NAME	VISITOR FACILITY NO. AND NAME	DOC PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL EXPLANATION	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSION	SUPPORT/ SUPPORT IN PART	NEUTRAL	OPPOSE/ OPPOSE IN PART	SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS	ANALYSIS	DECISION
	95919 Arrow Gorge track	Maintain by Community	Bridges and track built by ORC as part of millennium project. Bridges on marginal strip - will continue to have ongoing DOC inspections, but maintenance and management is responsibility of AVA/QIDC/WTT.	1	0	0	1	1 opposed	Some confusion arose between this track and Arrowtown Millennium walkway.	Maintain by DOC

9. Summary of decisions

CENTRAL OTAGO AREA

Two proposed longer distance tramping/route proposals totalling approx. 15km (upper Fraser Basin Interpretation track and Devils Creek/Mt Moka link track) have been withdrawn as longer term options, and two tramping tracks arising from tenure review and totalling 10km have needed to come under DOC management after a review of the legal management agreement clarified DOC responsibilities. This Area has a relatively large number of new proposals for carparks, toilet facilities and short walks mainly associated with providing adequate infrastructure to support visitor use of already popular sites including historic sites.

COASTAL OTAGO AREA

Coastal Otago was recognised at the start of the review process as the Area most in need of rationalisation of the number and standard of its short and day walk opportunities. The review has seen a number of proposals to cease maintenance on low use walks accepted by the community without comment. There is support for community management of one of these walks – Picnic Gully. Most of the Maintain by Community proposals have been accepted on the basis that community groups were already involved in management of those sites. In the Clutha District the Department has retained management of two sites. Discussions with affected parties regarding the future management of the Papatowai Camp ground are continuing.

In the case of Papatowai camp Ground, the quality of the sullage water has been a problem, and the capacity of the sewage system is limited. The department is now seeking a new resource consent to cover the sullage issue, and this should enable the camping ground to keep operating under its existing concession for at least the term of the current lease.

The Area has held discussions with various user groups over the future management of several huts. Discussions are under way to jointly upgrade one of Jubilee Hut in the Silverpeaks, opening the way to eventual removal of Yellow Hut which is in a poor state. Of three huts on the Rock and Pillar Range that came to DOC through tenure review, one is used for research purposes and will be licensed, and a second has recently been acquired by a private trust which is upgrading the hut to DOC standards and will make the facility available for public use. A concession will be issued for this hut also. The third hut is near to the privately owned hut, is in poor condition and may ultimately be removed, dependant upon discussions with OTMC.

WAKATIPU AREA

This Area is the sector that provides most opportunities for Backcountry Comfort Seekers, with tracks mainly located in or adjacent to Mount Aspiring National Park

centred on Glenorchy. The Wakatipu Recreational Hunting Area (RHA) covers most of the Greenstone and Caples valley catchments. A number of popular short and day walks are centred on the Queenstown /Glenorchy areas. Tenure review is securing higher altitude country that is expanding the range of opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Many urban/urban fringe tracks near Queenstown are managed between the DOC and QLDC while the Department defines where its interests start and stop. QLDC has indicated that it is opposed to central government withdrawing completely from provision of visitor/tourist facilities within the urban area on land managed by the department. This also applies to amenity areas, particularly around Lake Hayes where DOC has agreed to retain some management responsibilities. DOC, QLDC and the Wakatipu Trails Trust are continuing to discuss the parameters of each party's involvement with visitor facility provision in the Wakatipu.

One walking track (Lake Sylvan) is proposed for upgrading to a standard suitable for use by people with disabilities (i.e. wheelchair standard). The Routeburn roadend is long overdue for an upgrade which will see carparking and visitor shelter and information improvements. Hunters will be well served with retention of the old mid-Greenstone hut for use by hunters under a concession arrangement, and plans to replace the strategic Kay Creek hut, both located in Wakatipu RHA. A number of potentially historic and/or musterers huts are identified for minimal maintenance until assessments of their heritage values can be completed.

The Pyke Camp buildings are to be removed as they are located within the gazetted Olivine Wilderness Area of Mount Aspiring National Park. Buildings in a Wilderness Area are incompatible with the provisions of the National Parks Act 1980.

WANAKA AREA

This Area comprises the sector that provides most opportunities for Backcountry Adventurer tramping, with tracks mainly located in or adjacent to Mount Aspiring National Park centred on Makarora or the West Matukituki valley. A number of popular short and day walks are provided around Wanaka and along the Haast Highway. Tenure review is securing higher altitude country that is expanding the range of opportunities for outdoor recreation.

There are a number of new walking track and amenity area proposals that stem from the outcomes of tenure review. We have included tenure review proposals in the review only where substantive agreements have been reached. Some tracks where cease maintenance is proposed are associated with proposals to also remove huts. Five huts are identified for increases in capacity to meet current use levels. The upgrade of these huts will bring them up to the maximum bunk capacity the Conservancy considers appropriate for each site.

The proposal for a new link track from Blue Pools to the Young River mouth will provide an all weather access on to the Gillespie Pass circuit. This will involve track development, bridging several rivers and in time a new hut at Young Forks. There is strong support from traditional user groups and general public for this proposal as there are hazards associated with fording the Makarora River at the start of the circuit. A proposal to develop a short walk at Haast Pass is supported by RFBPS.

10. Overview of decisions in terms of a range of recreation opportunities

The Review has allowed Otago Conservancy to consider how its existing network of visitor facilities, and the new proposals identified, fit in to the range of recreation opportunities provided in Otago. We have worked to ensure consistency with Otago CMS and Mt Aspiring National Park Management Plan strategic directions. The Review has allowed us to confirm that the type of recreation facilities provided and their geographic spread do effectively meet the objective of providing and enhancing the range of recreation opportunities in Otago. Our engagement with associate groups and the community at large on the Review proposals has been beneficial in strengthening most relationships and in identifying areas where differences in views exist.

The review has allowed the conservancy to achieve its objective to reduce the commitment level in Coastal Otago Area to short and day walk opportunities which in many cases are duplicated in close proximity.

The early effects of tenure review are being experienced with several new proposals linked to implementation of the outcome of tenure review agreements, particularly in Wanaka Area. These opportunities will also allow greater potential to meet demand from mountain biking, horse riding and 4WD user groups, where they currently cannot be accommodated on land managed by the department. Efforts to integrate current visitor/recreation facility management with potential TR outcomes are now planned as a secondary outcome of this review.

The very significant additional facilities and opportunities expected to arrive through the High Country Tenure Review process, as more negotiations are concluded, is a key factor that cannot be factored in to the Otago recreation opportunity review at this time. Additions from HCTR will clearly result in additions to rural, backcountry walk in, drive in, 4X4 and remote opportunities and provide opportunities for enhanced mountain biking, ski-touring, open tops/high country tramping, 4WD and horse riding trekking and historic appreciation.

A number of proposals contained in the Recreation Opportunity Review are located within Mount Aspiring National Park. The management plan for the Park is currently under review and it is anticipated that some of the outcomes of the Recreation Opportunity Review will carry through in to the revised MANP Management Plan, once it is completed.

Appendix 1

WHAT THE DECISIONS MEAN

Decisions for facilities in the Conservancy have been made by DOC as an outcome of this process of consultation. The options for future management are grouped under 13 broad headings.

Maintain

The facility will continue to be maintained, to the appropriate standard, providing recreation opportunities the same as, or similar to, those currently available. If it is a building or a structure it will be replaced with a similar facility at the end of its useful life. DOC will bring the asset up to the required standard if it is not currently to the required standard.

Proposed (new)

A new facility will be developed in a place where there has not previously been one.

Replace

A new facility will be built replacing an existing facility that will soon reach the end of its useful life.

Upgrade to higher standard

The facility requires upgrading to a higher standard or to a larger size to meet the needs of the main visitor and/or mitigate against visitor impacts.

Maintain to lower standard

The facility will be maintained to a lower standard than has previously been the case. Often this will mean continuing to manage to a lower standard because the original standard intended for the facility was too high and never achieved.

Remove

Remove the facility (if a structure, sign, hut or building). If a hut, remove by the end of 2006. If a track, remove markers, plant out track entrances and leave the track to revert to a natural state, or assist this process if necessary.

Minimal maintenance

Used for huts and other buildings. The building will be inspected by DOC on a regular cycle. Inspectors will travel with basic tools and equipment and some minor maintenance (that can be done during the regular inspections) will be undertaken. When the building is no longer weatherproof or becomes dangerous or unsanitary,

it will be removed, unless there is a community group willing and able to bring it up to standard and maintained to standard (see Seeking Community Maintenance)

Cease maintenance

For tracks, markers will be left until they naturally disappear, but the track will be left to revert to a natural state. Roads are closed to motor vehicles. Carparks, amenity areas and campsites are left to revert to a natural state and any associated buildings or signs will be removed. Signs will be placed at track entrances stating that the track is no longer maintained.

Close site/remove all assets

Remove all assets (structures, signs, huts, track markers etc), plant out track entrances and leave the site to revert to a natural state. Closed sites will be removed from all visitor information. Where necessary the site or part of it will be rehabilitated.

Own by DOC but maintain by community

The facility is one DOC believes should be retained. It is one that could realistically be maintained by a club, community group or local authority. The facility may already be maintained by the community. A management agreement should be established if one is not already in place. The funding assumption is that DOC will not cover maintenance costs, but will fund inspections and replacement.

Owned and maintained by the community

The Department currently has a formal agreement in place with a club, community group or local authority to maintain the asset. If, in the future, that agreement falls over, the future of that asset will be determined following consultation with the community.

Seeking community maintenance

The asset currently has no formal agreement in place and is not one that DOC believes it should maintain at all. The facility should only be retained long term if the community agrees to take it on. It is one that realistically could be maintained by a club, community group or local authority. DOC will discuss ongoing maintenance and replacement of the facility with such groups and should establish a management agreement for that maintenance

Non-visitor DOC management

For facilities receiving very little or no visitor use, the facility will be managed by the department for other purposes, such as to accommodate pest control staff or to access a biodiversity conservation area. The facilities will not normally be available for visitor use.