



Hikurangi Community Trail Ride Proposal

Referring to WDC land off Gomez Road



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HIKURANGI TRAIL RIDE FULL PROPOSAL #4 - 2022

Background:

In 2011 some local businessmen approached WDC about an under utilised piece of land on Gomez Road and sought an agreement where the land could be used by local community groups to host trail rides to fundraise money for locals in need, at the time this was for Hikurangi School. The land is 186ha block that has previously been used for water purposed from WDC. WDC edited and approved a plan to create the “Noisy Motorsport Park” on this land and local residents fought against the plan from proceeding. At the time there was a substantial amount of money set aside for the project and noise and ecology feasibility studies were obtained. Due to the disagreeance of the community about the plan, the project was abandoned. Since then some of the outdoor recreation groups who were originally included in the plans have lost the ability to access facilities for their sport that are adequate. The goal remains in the community to utilise the site on Gomez Road in ways that can benefit the community now and for future years to come.

PROPOSAL #4 2022:

The 2022 proposal for the Hikurangi Community Trail Ride is drastically different to the Gomez Outdoor Recreation Park plan that was initiated in 2011, and to the previous 3 Gomez Outdoor Recreation Park proposals created between 2021-2022. This plan goes back to the original inquiry by HBA about utilising the land for trail rides to fundraise for the community as the primary goal within the proposal, and considers investigating future uses alongside other groups who may have their own proposals to present. The bottom line for HBA is that a portion of the land be utilised for community run trail rides where all the profits go back to local community groups and clubs.

The trail rides themselves would start and finish on privately owned farm land located off Valley Road, Hikurangi. The farm land currently provides a 10km loop for riders who have participated in the one trial event. Feedback was the track needs to be longer, so this proposal suggests to utilise a portion of the Gomez land which will act as a gateway into the Matariki Forest, where another 10km-20km of trail have been approved. The Gomez land is effectively a connecting property from the private farm to the forest, and the intention is not to establish the whole sought area for tracks, but instead to have just a few tracks on old forestry roads that adds to the area available for the riders to enjoy.

A more detailed outline of the proposal is below:

1. Activities Proposed for Gomez Land Block

The original 2010 plan included a variety of 9 different activities available in the Outdoor Recreation Park. Our 2022 proposal is to have 1 activity only that can be started ASAP and remain running as long

as there is a need for it, as well as consider to investigate a number of further opportunities in the future as potential to utilise the land.

- Trail rides - The original proposal of having a trail ride track constructed remains. The course would utilise old forestry tracks on the western side of the land and operate under the motto “run by the community, for the community”. Local community groups and sports clubs would come together to run the event under the management of the Hikurangi Community Development Manager. All profits from the trail rides would get given back to the community, either divided up amongst groups or given in bulk depending on the purpose of the event.

2. Land Area Details

In the original 2011 proposal, almost all of the 186ha (460 acres) land area owned by council was to be utilised by the Motorsport Park. Under the new 2022 proposal, we are seeking to use around 50 hectares for the trail rides. The land proposed to be used by the trail rides has been walked and mapped by a local hunter with the bush being described as “dense scrub with some native trees, with forestry tracks visible that have been overgrown with ti tree but minimal other fauna located on the tracks. Some areas of the bush when leaving the tracks are too dense to be walked through”.

The land sought currently consists of predominantly over grown gorse and other non-desirable scrub. Some larger mature trees are on the property and commitments have been made to ensure mature trees will not be cut down or destroyed. Courses will likely be created to go around established bush/tree areas where there is an option to do so. There are also a number of waterways and gully’s on the property, which may or may not be utilised, but destruction or disturbance of these areas will also be avoided where possible. HBA is not proposing to use any of the dam sites or established rivers located on the land.

3. Frequency of Events

It is noted that the intention for the Hikurangi Community Trail Ride grounds is not to be utilised in a daily come-and-go as you please manner.

The intention would be that the property is used for events only. Our proposal is that up to 4 trail ride events per year be allowed for the purposes of fundraising. This would be limited to between Spring and Autumn as the motorbikes will not use the land when it is muddy. An event could consist of either a one day or two day (weekend) event.

4. Parking

For the trail rides the proposal that is access to Gomez land would come off a neighbouring farm on the western side of the land. This means the access to the trail rides would come from Valley Road and would not require the use of Gomez Road for access or car parking. Car parking for the events would take place on the neighbouring farm.

5. Toilets

Toileting for these events would be paid for by the community and located on site of the neighbouring farm, by way of hired portaloos.

6. Clubrooms

There are no need for clubrooms or any building structures for this proposal.

7. Access to Property

Access would come from Valley Road until if/when either neighbouring farms sell, in which case the access would be revised.

8. Ongoing Security

The proposal is to have each group who is managing an event or club day, to be responsible for security to the property on the day, including facilities, during the hours of the event. The managing group will be responsible for fixing/replacing any damage done to any part of the property during their event, they will be responsible for rubbish cleanup and removal, and also responsible for cleaning and delivery/removal of all toilets etc. It is not believed this proposal indicates ongoing security monitoring for the Gomez Road land.

9. Community Groups to Potentially Host Fundraising Events

There are a variety of community groups within the Hikurangi District, and many of them are struggling to make financial ends meet each year. Some of the community groups largely rely on funding applications through places like Rano Trust, Lotteries, WDC or Oxford Trust. Often the amount applied for is not granted in full and the community groups are left with a large deficit that they need to find the money for themselves. Sometimes the deficit is not able to be filled, and things like building maintenance or equipment upgrades do not get to happen. Over the last few years, some of the local community groups have had to close due to the difficulty of managing financially. This is particularly applicable post covid19.

The range of community groups who could benefit from fundraising by hosting trail rides through the Hikurangi Community Trail Ride include (but are not limited to):

- Hikurangi Friendship House
- Hikurangi Mountain Lions
- Hikurangi Lighthouse Playgroup
- Hikurangi Tennis Incorporated
- Hikurangi Museum
- Hikurangi Community Library
- Hikurangi Business Association
- Hikurangi Rugby Club

- Hikurangi Netball Club
- Hikurangi Fire Station
- Hikurangi Auto Madness
- Hikurangi Hockey Club
- Hikurangi Fencing Club
- Hikurangi Bowling Club
- Hikurangi Maori Wardens

It is noted that a substantial amount of income can be earned from hosting events as described above. There are about four trail rides that get held annually in the north of Whangarei, and these events usually draw in \$5000-\$15,000 each time the event is held. For any of the above named groups, that is a huge income compared to other fundraising opportunities within the community. The previous trail ride saw 6 of the above groups contribute to the management of the trail ride so the funds received from the trial event were divided equally amongst the 6 groups.

10. Costs

To be addressed post council consultation

11. Work Required on Property

There are requirements to develop the property to fulfil the vision of the proposal. Some immediate considerations are:

- Earth works to create main loop track as the previously used logging tracks now have ti tree and scrub growing on them. However, where possible earth works will mostly be used to reclear the old logging tracks so ensure minimal damage to the natural untouched areas of the property;
- Boundary indications to be installed around the edge of the area to be used for trial rides to restrict riders entering incorrect areas of the land (if required);
- Upgrade to fencing and entrance way to the property from neighbouring farms.

12. Benefits to the Community

There are a number of benefits for the community if the trail ride initiative goes ahead:

1. Land that is currently under utilised will be able to be used in a relatively non-evasive way to nearby residents, in a way that is beneficial to multiple groups within the wider Whangarei community;
2. Community groups from within Hikurangi that may be struggling will benefit hugely from any income brought in by having the opportunity to host an event;
3. Local businesses will benefit by attendees of events spending their money within our community;
4. The property is currently being used as a rubbish dumping zone and a drug growing property which is of a hazardous nature;

5. If this property is developed it will benefit the proposed ideas in the Place Making Plan which addressed the need for this area to be better utilised for the benefit of the community.

14. Community Consultation

- Meeting held on May 20th 2021 with Gomez Road residents and other neighbouring properties situated between 85 and 335 Marua Road as well as residents from Gomez Road, Toia Way, and Longs Road. 20 in attendance (based around proposal 1)
- Meeting held on 3rd June 2021 with public community invited, 11 in attendance, with 8 of those being residents from the immediate Gomez zone (based around proposal 1)
- Meeting held on July 8th 2021 with interested sports groups and local community groups who would be directly affected if the new proposal was to go ahead. Six different groups in attendance as well as one resident and one local business owner (based around proposal 1)
- Online/hardcopy survey to Gomez residents and neighbouring properties issued on 21 June 2021, date survey closed August 31st 2021, 20 respondents in total (based around proposal 1) 50% against, 35% further consultation, 15% in favour.
- Online survey to general community, issued on 28 June 2021, date survey closed 31 August 2021, 59 respondents in total with 82% in support of Gomez Park proceeding (based around proposal 1).
- Public meeting held for anyone to attend with yes/no voting papers issued (based around proposal 3) voting results on page 15.

15. Community Engagement and Feedback (on trail rides)

In March 2022 on the neighbouring farms, HBA held a trial run pop-up trail ride. Neighbours were notified of the two day event and advertising was done on social media, the Hikurangi website, and in the Hikurangi bulletin. With covid restrictions in place and a bad weather report, the goal was to keep attendances under 100 bikes. With 76 in attendance over the 2 days, we have received no negative feedback from any neighbours or residents, nor from any of the riders who attended. Feedback from the community groups attending who supported with running the event (Mountain Lions, Tennis Club, HBA, Fire brigade, Maori Wardens, Museum) all had positive feedback and have volunteered their services again for the next ride. Feedback from the riders can be found below on. Please note the repetitive requests for a longer trial ride (ours is 10km, regular trail ride is 30-40km). This supports the need to access a portion of Gomez land to lengthen the trail ride track.

HIKURANGI TRAIL RIDE BRIEF PROPOSAL #4 - 2022

1. History

- Date unknown - Trail rides used to operate in Marua from Lowe Road through Glenbervie Forest out to Matapouri Road, and back to McBreen Road as fundraising opportunity for Hikurangi school. Private farm land used for access became unavailable so trail rides ceased
- 2008 - HBA goes to WDC requesting use of Gomez Land for community trail rides
- 2009 - WDC develops “noisy sport park” plan for Gomez land
- 2011 - Ecology, Noise & Traffic reports constructed
- 201? - WDC allocates 4.2 million in funds to develop “Gomez Park”
- 201? - Residents and members of the public oppose the park and get project closed down
- 2018 - HBA Secretary contacts WDC to reignite trail ride discussions
- 2020 - Submissions made to secure \$15k for resource consent from Annual Plan
- 2020 - HBA engage new Secretary to create new proposal (1)
- 2021 - Public consultation and surveys on proposal (1)
- 2021 - \$30k granted for resource consent in year 2 of LTP (2023)
- 2021 - Outcomes edited to funds from LTP available in year 3 (2024)
- 2021 - New proposal (2) created
- 2021 - Meeting with WDC to discuss “bottom lines” of interested parties
- 2022 - Trial trail ride March 2022
- 2022 - Proposal (3) completed and approved by HBA for further public consultation
- 2022 - Further public consultation on proposal (3)
- 2022 - Proposal (4) completed and sent to WDC

2. WDC Funding

- July 2020 - submissions to WDC Annual Plan for “\$15k of council resources including council planners time, to be allocated to the preparation of a resource consent” for “Council owned land in Gomez Road to create a mountain bike and motor bike track that will be used for community fundraising purposes”.
- October 2020 - Sharlene brought in to support Will and Shayn in management of project.
- March 2021 - first draft proposal created.
- May 2021 - WDC allocate \$30k funds for “the new grant funding year two for Gomez Road Park consent”.
- 2022 - WDC year two funding pushed out to year three (2024).
- To date - no contact with WDC post initial submissions regarding accessing allocated funding.

3. Proposals

- Proposal 1 - created March 2021 - to develop entire land area for: archery, trail rides, 4WD track, mountain biking, horse treks, and walking tracks, as well as carparks, toilet blocks, and clubrooms.
- Proposal 2 - created September 2021 - to remove horse treks and include model aviation, set limits on frequency of events, seek ½ amount of land as in previous proposal, look at lease of land options.
- Proposal 3 - created April 2022 - to remove all sports except trail rides (immediate start) and allow provision for mountain biking and archery to be looked into in the future, seek smaller area on western side of property only, remove all access from Gomez Road side, remove all carparks and buildings.
- Proposal 4 - created August 2022 - to remove archery and mountain biking from main proposal and include it as a statement of intent as appendix, include latest community consultation results with proposal, update maps.

4. Consultations

- April 2021 - letter to residents with draft first proposal, dropped into letterboxes of immediate residents to Gomez Road, Toia Way, Longs Road, and some Marua Road houses.
- May 2021 - meeting held for effected residents to attend and discuss proposal 1
- June 2021 - meeting held for all of public to attend and discuss proposal 1
- June 2021 - survey issued to effected residents to give feedback on proposal 1
- June 2021 - survey issued to all of public to give feedback on proposal 1
- July 2021 - meeting held for any interested sports clubs who would utilize grounds, or local community groups/clubs who would be interested in using grounds as fundraising opportunity, all based off proposal 1
- November 2021 - meeting between WDC, HBA, FOGOFF, GRASS based around proposal 2
- March 2022 - trail ride held and feedback sought from riders and feedback received from neighbouring properties
- July 2022 - engagement with Matariki Forest (permission granted), NRC (criteria set for trail rides), Kiwicoast, and Marua Landcare
- August 2022 - meeting held for all public to give feedback on proposal 3

5. Concerns and reviews

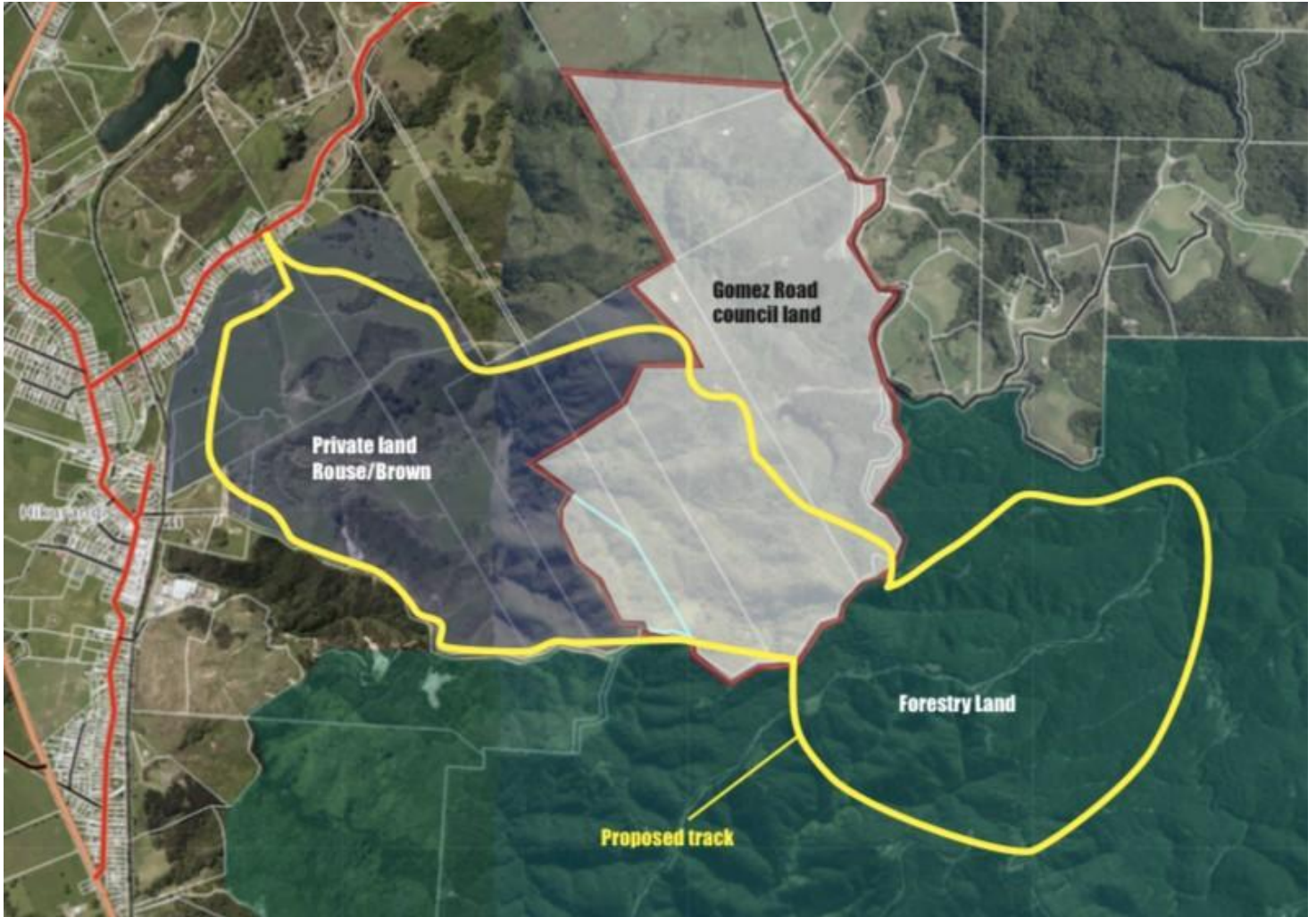
- Traffic - HBA has moved proposed area of use to ensure traffic does not need to utilize Gomez Road to enter/exit any activities.
- Noise - HBA has moved the proposed area of use to the farthest away point from Gomez Road residents, utilizing only the western side of the property.
- Quantity of use - HBA has removed the bulk of the proposed activities and has restricted the remaining activities so the land cannot be used in a “come as you please” manner, events capped at 4 per year.
- Waste Management - HBA has created a hub for riders to gather/feed/toilet on private adjoining farm land, so no waste or rubbish should enter the property at all.
- Security, Monitoring, and Fencing - HBA has dropped all requirements for this with the moving of proposed area to use, and by utilizing adjoining farm land for access.

- Damage to Ecology - HBA has committed to utilizing old forestry tracks in the first instance and to leave the bulk of the land available for other groups to develop ecology should they put their own proposal forward. Kiwi Coast, Marua Landcare, NRC contacted to confirm acceptable for trail rides on this site, approval given.
- Future Development of the Land - HBA has committed to ensuring all appropriate documentation is in place to prevent this from happening from HBA group, beyond the current proposal.
- Governance of the Land - HBA has looked into lease options as well as suggested co-cooperative governing group be formed to manage project. No outcome from this to date.

6. Proposal #4 Outline

- Only a section of the western most land off WDC owned Gomez land proposed to be used (see map).
- Access to events and Gomez land will solely be from private farm land based off Valley Road.
- No carparks, toilets, buildings, or any other aspect of previous plans or proposals are being sought.
- Trail rides will be limited to a maximum of 4 events per calendar year in appropriate seasons and weather only.
- HBA is in favour of the remainder of the land being utilized by other groups for environmental improvement and restoration.
- Potential to look into archery course and mountain bike/walking tracks by other groups in later years to come, where all due diligence would need to be considered and funded to progress forward, suggestion for this to have steering group formed between community groups, local residents, and WDC to manage process.

PROPOSED MAP



Blue shaded area - private farm land currently used for trail rides

Grey shaded area - WDC owned land off Gomez Road

Green shaded area - Matariki forest

Yellow outline - proposed area for trail ride use.

In the Gomez land there are three old forestry tracks within the proposed area, one goes from the private farm land up to the entrance to Matariki Forest, and two go across the land from the entrance to Matariki forest to the farthest point of private farm land. The tracks are predominantly on ridges, not down in the gullies.



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FEEDBACK FROM TRIAL TRAIL RIDE

John Haverkort

"Thank you for a great day, the event was perfect for our skill level. Maybe road signs would snare a few more riders".

Cory Newby

"It was perfect in the fact that with our group of 9 vehicles some of our kiddies were still learning to ride so small group was great in that aspect".

John-Lee Diamond

"I think the track was great. The kids enjoyed it and made it round the second time without falling off. If I was riding without the kids I would have liked to see what the advanced tracks were. But we had a great day, thanks".

Graham Steedman

"It was an awesome ride and if it is a regular event we will definitely be back. The weather was a bummer, but that can't be helped. Lots of support on the trail was awesome. My only feedback is a 10km loop is a short loop and that would put people off, 30km loops make for a longer and more fun day. Loved the food and the super friendly people. Was a super cool ride".

Dylan Boyd

"Loved the trail ride. Our kids had an amazing time on Sunday as did us adults. I think the only reason for such low attendance was the unpredictable weather. I would bring myself and my son and our group out every weekend if that was a thing. As it is sad that there are getting less and less places to ride and for kids to experience. I also would be happy to help set up or help in any way. We live in Onerahi and have nowhere for my son to ride and learn so the more often the better for us. Thanks heaps".

Larry Purdie

"Had great fund thanks".

Luke HInse

"The event was absolutely fantastic. Came only for the Saturday morning and enjoyed a great track with not too many riders. Please keep on doing it and I'm sure the numbers will go up. I liked the opportunity to choose between two days and it felt like and even from the community for the community. Big thumbs up! Was great and different view of Hikurangi. Thanks"

Keron Fieckert

"Awesome ride, I did the Saturday. Wish it was a bit muddier along the loop if possible. Well done, I'd do it again. Please keep in touch, I'll be back next time if you have it".

Jon Townsend

"Good day, good job".

Brendon Honey

"Awesome. It was awesome. Smiley people greeted my son and I from our drive up from Helensville, first of. Magic tracks with heaps for all abilities. Especially loved the super fast flowey stuff up on the paddocks, with a view to die for. Great to see volunteers out on the hills keeping an eye on the safety of the riders too. One more great thing was the fact that the farm offered the paddocks as part of the track which meant you could relax doing a circuit. I for one could ride heaps more in a day than I could anywhere else. Super magic day guys, you should all give yourselves a pat on the back. I'd be back in a shot".

Arran Barnes

"I myself thought it was a good day and good track, will do it again. However I think because it's a short track it would be a bit of chaos if there was the number riders that have been at bigger rides. So I think you would have to have people at the trouble points in order to spread riders out".

Kevin Jessop

"I just think it was not advertised enough or it was held straight after the Matarau school one and before the Mid Nothern one, which are probably two of the best ones held. Probably if it was held on a month when there is no other one on, you would get a lot better turn out. Or even if you could hold a two man endure cross race I reckon you would get a good turn out. But again, make sure you find out from the MX clubs when their club days are on so you're not clashing with them".

Tony O'Connor

"Had a good ride, thought it was awesome. Wouldn't change a thing. Just need more of them and thank you for putting it on".

Alistair Simpson

"I reckon it was pretty awesome. It's surprising you didn't have many riders. Maybe only being a 10km loop put people off? Just because a normal trail ride is 30-40km loop. But it was primo anyway, I'll definitely be back!"

Stephen Pallant

"I really appreciate the effort you all made with the friendly welcome, the trails, the parking area, catering, and facilities. I and my mate who came up from Auckland loved the terrain and the challenge of the trails. The 10km loop was great and a slightly longer one would be nice. Great day out, great people, great to be back in Northland".

Malcolm Alysons

"The advertising and notice was too short for a new unknown ride. Most people didn't know soon enough"

Mike Gillmuig

"I thought it was a hit, maybe a bit short on the course, but would still come back again. Would also suggest advertising the event on facebook, easy then to tag and share with mates. See you next time".

Sam Pedersen

"Great ride, will definitely be back again. The only reason you have low numbers is most trail rides are 30 odd km long. Would have put a lot of people off coming. Otherwise excellent and I'll be back again".



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FEEDBACK FROM AUGUST CONSULTATION

A public meeting was held on 4th August 2022 for public to attend to discuss proposal #3. A presentation was done based off the above “brief proposal” pages 8-10. There were around 70 people attending in total including 7 HBA members and a private mediator who hosted the meeting. Each person was given a voting paper upon entry and was asked to vote in support or against the proposal and to provide feedback/opinions on proposal #3.

VOTE RESULTS

TOTAL VOTES: 64 (This includes 7 votes from HBA members engaged in proposal)

IN FAVOUR: 47 (This includes 6 votes from HBA members engaged in proposal)

ABSTAIN: 2 (This includes 0 votes from HBA members engaged in proposal)

AGAINST: 15 (This includes 1 vote from HBA member engaged in proposal)

RESULTS RELATING TO GOMEZ RESIDENTS ATTENDING

(Included in results shown above)

TOTAL VOTES: 19 (no HBA members included in residents vote)

IN FAVOUR: 7

ABSTAIN: 2

AGAINST: 10

CONCERNS RAISED AT THE MEETING - REVIEWED AND ADDRESSED (in red)

1. Climate Change - using fossil fuels on recreational activities - **HBA does not believe this is sufficient enough concern to pass up the opportunity to access funds potentially raised for the community. Four events per year is not deemed substantially impactful.**

2. Environmental degradation - HBA is committed to ensuring riders stick to tracks created and does not encourage destruction of any part of the forest. It is believed animals and walking tracks will cause as much damage as motorbike tracks that aren't used regularly.
3. Because HBA have already been told no more than once - HBA believes there are minimal people opposed to this initiative and that the majority of the public are happy for the events to proceed. Taking the "no's" on board has been part of the process that has led to the severely downsized proposal in comparison to the previous three proposals. The "no's" have been heard and adequately reviewed and considered, and have been deemed to be in the minority of voices being heard.
4. All about community, why can't HBA and Gomez work together - HBA has asked multiple times for the Gomez groups to participate and engage in the proposal process and to work together, the answer has been no time after time and this is minuted in the WDC minutes from meeting Nov 2021.
5. Too many sports interested concerned - the majority of sports initially sought have been removed from the proposal throughout the consultation process.
6. People should be monitoring what people are doing in those areas - With access from private farm land HBA does not believe there will be a risk to the land being used recklessly, even though it is already being abused now.
7. Not sustainable ecologically - the damage to ecology will be minimal with 3 tracks and only being used up to 4 events per year. HBA will work with other ecology groups to ensure steps are taken to protect ecology.
8. Only for the wealthy who can afford it - extremely inaccurate and offensive statement, people of all ages and economic status are riders of bikes. The public ATV rides also encourage participation of people who don't own bikes of their own.
9. Noise - HBA has moved the proposed use area as far away from neighbouring houses as possible, and with the bush and hills/valleys to support with noise consumption it is believed the noise nuisance will be at a minimum to neighbouring properties.
10. Kiwi corridor - HBA doesn't believe the tracks/rides will effect this, NRC and Kiwicoast consulted around this.
11. Forest regeneration - Not considered an issue on these tracks, any tracks present in the bush will have the same regeneration issue as to what is happening on current man made tracks now.
12. Special species (paua slug, grey teal, kiwi, NZ dobchick) - Appropriate groups have been consulted to discuss issues for species of concern in this area. It is believed the rides and tracks will not cause damage to the species listed. Slugs and snails are nocturnal and don't have ears so can't hear, kiwi also nocturnal.
13. Raise money through markets - HBA does not believe markets can raise between \$5000-\$15,000 in a day to gift back to the community, like trail rides can.
14. Donate to community instead - HBA does not believe good-will donations can raise the amount of money that can be raised from trail rides.
15. Unacceptable option for access if private farms are sold - This is not something HBA can predict and the issue would need to be addressed at the time if/when either of the private farms are sold and IF new owners were not happy for trail rides to continue.
16. Dust nuisance in summer - The tracks are not near the residents houses and traffic participating in events would access via Valley Road, HBA fails to see where dust would be created that would effect anyone.
17. Waterway damage - HBA is not proposing to utilise waterways and if any are come across during track construction HBA is happy to address bridge/culvert options to avoid waterways if requested.
18. Safety concerns around mining shafts - HBA has not come across any evidence of mine shafts being present on this land.

19. Fire hazards - There are criteria in place to prevent fire as part of the conditions to accessing Matariki Forest, the same criteria can be transferred over to Gomez land.
20. Use farm land instead - HBA has been using farmland to date but the 10km loop is not big enough for a standard trail ride, hence seeking more land to expand. Part of the goal with this proposal has always been to utilise an unused piece of land to help benefit the community, HBA would like to stick with proposing to use the Gomez land.
21. Land needs to be protected from development - HBA is not proposing to develop the land and if council intends to sell or develop the land, that is not of any business to the HBA.
22. Native flora/fauna/birds will be undermined - HBA does not believe this is a substantial risk from this proposal.
23. Future access from Gomez Road - This is not something the HBA is intending at this point and would endeavour to prevent access from Gomez Road in the future.
24. Not inclusive of whole community - HBA offers public ATV rides during the trail ride where people of all ages are able to participate and enjoy a scenic tour of the farmland. Anyone who owns a motorbike in NZ is able to attend, including local residents. All the volunteers managing the events are also from local community groups and clubs, and those groups and clubs are the recipients of the raised funds, which filter back down to the members of those groups/clubs and/or the donations/sponsorships/projects they give back to the community.
25. Not enough details confirming activities - Unsure what other details are expected to be given regarding trail rides. No other activities are currently being proposed at this time.
26. Not everything is about money - True, however lots of community groups and clubs struggle to make ends meet and provide quality services to their members/the community so by offering groups/clubs a way to help themselves to bring in extra money, it takes the financial struggle off relying on funding and grants to make ends meet. We also pride ourselves on offering a family friendly fun day out that brings positive thoughts of Hikurangi in to the community from locals as well as from people who attend our events from further away.
27. Not inclusive - HBA believes this is inaccurate and the trail rides are inclusive to anyone interested in participating or booking a ride on the ATV tour.
28. More research around noise and ecology issues - This has been done in the past and HBA does not believe there is a need to pursue these expensive studies for up to 4 events per year. HBA does support this happening in the future if the land is sought for other activities or development.
29. Not inclusive of local marae - Local marae have not specifically been contacted regarding the trail rides however the local Maori Wardens are active participants in the volunteers who manage this event, and they are well connected to all local marae. They have advised us this initiative has been discussed at the marae's and to date no issues or concerns have been raised.
30. Surveys need to be issued to local businesses around feedback after trail rides - HBA does not have a problem in doing this.
31. Four events a year is a waste of time - HBA believes that when you can profit between \$5000 to \$15,000 event, up to four times per year, with a profit range of \$20,000 to \$60,000 per year, that it is most certainly not a waste of time.
32. Is there a conflict of interest with proposal creator being the Community Development Manager and also on the HBA committee - This is something HBA and CDM governing committee are happy to address within their meetings.

33. Provide clarity over traffic plan for Stage 2 of Proposal 3 - This proposal has since been dropped but if stage 2 was to be looked into in the future, due diligence would be done at that time in regards to traffic and all other matters.
34. The presentation is different to the proposal - This is correct and was due to Proposal 3 still being a working document up until the presentation. Some aspects had since been edited without being removed from the original published document.
35. Clarify the wording around the event frequency - The events are proposed up to 4 events per year. An event may be a one day (weekend) trail ride or a 2 day (weekend) trail ride.
36. Confirm the process to produce Stage 2 of Proposal 3 - There currently is no process as it is not being sought, however HBA recommends the process would be as follows: In the first instance a steering group would be set up of 2 x Gomez residents, 2 x interested parties (likely from the driving community group) as well as the Community Development manager, as well as council; meetings would then take place to build the vision and to complete all due diligence required.
37. Check what is said in the proposal about access to land if private farms are sold - The exact wording is "Access would come from Valley Road until if/when either neighbouring farms sell, in which case the access would be revised"
38. Where would car parks and buildings be for Stage 2 in Proposal 3 - This is something that will be investigated through due diligence if the ideas were to be sought in the future.
39. How does this proposal help the community - by bringing much needed funds to local groups and clubs as well as more business to the main business zone in the village.
40. How can money raising work if we swapped Stage 2 Proposal 3 for Stage 1 Proposal 3 - HBA does not believe mountain biking or archery has the ability to bring in the funds trail rides do, so in terms of money raising, it simply wouldn't work.
41. Can there be a guarantee from Shayn about future access - No. This is not something Shayn has the ability or authority to make guarantees about with it not being his land.
42. Waste of WDC funding if access ceases - HBA doesn't believe the \$30,000 WDC was put aside to assist with this land will be wasted if access ceases in the future, any money raised from this initiative is a win for the community.
43. What types of bikes will be operating in the trail ride - HBA does not have a list of bikes riders use, however any bike fit for purpose is welcomed. All trail rides are monitored for noise disturbance so particularly loud bikes will not be allowed entry. Regular trail ride attendees know this as a common practice. HBA will be looking into whether the track is suitable for ebikes.
44. Review traffic issues for Valley Road residents - Feedback can be sought from Valley Road residents after the next trail ride (October 2022) and any issues can be addressed by HBA.
45. Outline better if events are seasonal - This is hard to specifically define without experience and weather knowledge however trail rides usually don't operate in the middle of winter so likely months for events would be September through to April.
46. Where did riders from last trail ride reside, how many were locals - Of the 45 registered riders who's hand writing I could read, 4 riders were from Auckland, 24 riders from Whangarei District, 12 riders from Hikurangi District, 4 riders from Far North, and 1 rider from Kaipara District.
47. Can already utilized farms be used instead - Possibly. Some farmers are willing to allow trail rides on their land but is usually for a local club/group they are personally affiliated with. The goal of this proposal is still to utilize unused land that can be used to benefit the community.

48. Identify long term effect on native trees on the land, and other flora/fauna - This is a long term issue that requires extensive knowledge on, however HBA has committed to not damaging native trees or flora/fauna where possible.
49. Are side by sides included in trail rides - To date, they haven't been, no. This is something that can be discussed as the trail rides develop.
50. Seek feedback from all Hikurangi residents after the next trail ride - HBA is happy to do this.



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FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS - Stage 2 of Proposal 3 (Placeholder)

In Proposal 3 there was a second stage that included future possibilities beyond the trail rides. The basic outline of this was:

To look into long term usage for this area including a variety of previously proposed activities, including

- *Mountain biking - utilising the tracks created for the trail rides and potential partnering up with neighbouring land, an extensive mountain biking track could be created to meet the needs of a growing pass time in our district. It is possible this could be set up as a professional community business with mountain and ebikes for hire with any profits going back to the community.*
- *Archery - this very sought after sport requires two types of areas, a target range and an archery course. The latter could potentially be included within the tracks used for the trail rides, with animated targets located throughout the area.*
- *GRASS/FOGOFF - we note here that GRASS and FOGOFF have previously eluded to ideas their groups have for the Gomez land. We would like for their ideas and concepts to be considered for this land, in particular the eastern side of the land which is not currently being sought for use by HBA.*

HBA would like to note in this proposal that it supports these initiatives being looked into in the future, by a governing steering group made up of selected members from Gomez Road, local community groups, and our Community Development Manager. Whilst HBA is not seeking these activities be looked in to at the present time, it would like to formally note that it fully supports collaborating with other groups and working together towards a shared vision. With that in mind, the HBA would like to issue the following Statement of Intent:

STATEMENT OF INTENT

“Hikurangi Business Association would like to acknowledge that as at August 2022 the current committee has no intention of seeking the above activities being activated on the Gomez land in discussion, any time in the near/foreseeable future. HBA supports any future vision for the land involving the above activities to be a collaborative one made transparent to all the community, by open communication and public consultation. HBA recommends a steering group be formed to create any future vision and should include the Community Development Manager, Gomez Road (and adjoining roads) residents, Whangarei District Council, and members of at least one other long standing Community Group to all develop the vision together. HBA reserves judgement on any other proposal presented to council to utilise the land until publicly presented and consulted on”.