



VEHICLE CLUB  
Wellington (inc)

The Cross Country Vehicle Club (Wellington) Inc.  
P.O. Box 38-762, Te Puni, Wellington

Peter Shore  
Parks Manager  
Horowhenua District Council  
Private Bag 4002  
Levin

13 June 2000

Dear Peter,

**Re Submission to the Draft Foxton Beach Coastal Reserve Management Plan**

The Cross Country Vehicle Club are regular users of the Foxton Beach motorised recreation area. We enjoy the facilities particularly at Easter and Labour Weekend each year.

We represent some 700 persons made up of members, their families and friends, many of whom have made significant effort to give back to Foxton some of what we take in enjoyment. This has included many working bees spent planting grass, removing derelict cars and collecting rubbish. We intend to continue these activities.

Whilst we acknowledge that the intention is to extend the deadline for submissions, just in case such an extension is not granted, we wish to register the following comments as a submission to the Coastal Reserve Management Plan. We will likely take the opportunity to make further submissions in line with the extended time schedule you are proposing.

The Four Wheel Drive Association will be making submissions of a more technical nature regarding the quality of the draft document, and we would wish to add our support to their submission. We would also like to add the following:

In general, we were impressed with the outcomes and “straw polls” emanating from the public meeting held last Saturday in Foxton Beach. In particular, we support the principle of Council maintaining proposed zones 2 and 4 as areas for conservation, with the proviso that motor access along the shore of zone 2 is still permitted.

We would expect zone 1 to be divided, with the area of high ecological value being managed as reserve, with the remainder remaining as it is an area of active recreation.

This leaves only Zone 3 as the most dynamic part of the dune structures to remain predominantly for active recreation. This area is the one least susceptible to sustained damage by active use, and is accessible readily by all users. The further enforcement of “buffer zones” around residential areas would help reduce some of the potential conflicts.

One further observation. The increasing incidence of rubbish deposition in the bowl areas is particularly alarming. We note the difficulty locals have in removing rubbish to the transfer station at Foxton, and the relatively high charges applied. In a depressed socio-economic area, it costs perhaps as much to dump one trailer-load of rubbish as a family may have for “luxury” items for a week. Perhaps Council could investigate other lower-cost options.

We note also that many members of the public were insistent that all vehicles using the dune area should be registered and warranted. Whilst this is something that at face-value seems more than reasonable, in practice, this could create more problems than it resolves.

Many visitors and residents partake in the sport of home-built buggies. These are virtually impossible to register and could never hope to gain a warrant of fitness. Denying access to these vehicles could lead to their use in other more inappropriate places. It may be better on reflection to allow their use (Zone 3 is not a legal road anyhow), and encourage through user education and peer pressure the safe and quiet use of their “toys”.

Thank you for the opportunity to make these various submissions on behalf of our Club, and we would welcome the opportunity to speak to these at any further hearings.

For and on behalf of  
Cross Country Vehicle Club (Wellington) Inc.

Grant Purdie  
Land Access Officer