

New Zealand Four Wheel Drive Association
National President
C/- Box 48 176
Silverstream
Upper Hutt



10 May 2005

Peter Till
Ruapehu District Council
Private Bag 1001
Taumarunui 2600

Hi Peter

Proposed Bye-law – Fisher’s Road

It was great to catch up with you at Wellington Airport the other day, and discuss the issues surrounding the utilisation of Fisher’s Road.

As we agreed, I believe the Association would support a seasonal closure of Fisher’s Road without difficulty, and will be presenting that at National Conference for ratification in Rotorua later this month – but I don’t see any issues!

Attached then is our submission based on the assumption that these will be seasonal, and not permanent closures.

We would be grateful if we could be allocated speaking rights at any meetings to complement to our written submission.

Warmest Regards

Andy Cockroft
President, NZFWDA

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Ruapehu District Council
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Attn Peter Till

Dear Sirs

Submission on Proposed Bye-Law – Fisher’s Road National Park

The New Zealand Four Wheel Drive Association represents those 4WD enthusiasts, their families and friends who enjoy their chosen sport through organised Club activities. We are represented amongst the NGO groups who meet regularly with DOC, Local and National Government and we are closely allied to organisations such as Public Access New Zealand (PANZ) and the Council of Outdoor Recreational Associations of New Zealand (CORANZ). The Association is also an ardent supporter of Tread Lightly! New Zealand (<http://treadlightly.org.nz>) and encourages its membership to exercise their sport with consideration for the environmental impacts that can eventuate from inconsiderate use.

We have read the supporting documents regarding a proposal to implement a bye-law prohibiting specific categories of motor vehicle from accessing part of Fisher’s Road to the west of National Park.

This is a situation that we believe is unsupportable, both morally and at law.

However, we also understand the rationale behind the proposal, and believe that a more pragmatic approach would be to close sections of Fisher’s Road during periods of wet and otherwise adverse weather conditions.

We understand as well, that Council are considering this as an alternative solution, and we understand, commend and support this position.

Our members have a history of working with Territorial Authorities and large land managers such as DOC, in maintaining or helping to maintain tracks and trails that might otherwise fall into disrepair.

With Ruapehu enjoying a seasonal trade, benefits can accrue from inducing recreational tourism to help smooth the seasonal fluctuations.

In Stratford District, a local group spearheaded by the NZFWDA has successfully taken on the maintenance role of the Old Whangamomona Road running north-south between Aotuhia and Whangamomona. This has seen over \$300,000 invested in track improvements and the provisioning of two bridges to County Standards.

The nett effect at Whangamomona has been little short of miraculous. The town that was once on the brink of extension is now a booming rural community enjoying the influx of recreational users from all over the Country. Diverse pastimes such as tramping, horse riding, mountain bikes, trail bikes, quads and 4WDs all share the same narrow track with relative ease.

Whangamomona is now booming due in no small part to the foresight of a benevolent Council.

We would welcome the opportunity to work with Council in the care and maintenance of Fisher's Road, and naturally we would be willing to pool our resources with other diverse user groups to create a recreational resource that would be equally as valuable as the Old Whanga Road is to Taranaki.

We would welcome the opportunity to speak to this submission at the appropriate Council meetings

For and on Behalf of
New Zealand Four Wheel Drive Association

Andy Cockroft
President