

Wed 9/01/2013 2:26 p.m.

Hi Wendy,

Thank-you for the discussion on the proposed Opawe Road closure by Manawatu District Council.

As mentioned, I am responding to an enquiry relating to concern at the loss of public access to the Ruahine Forest Park, if the Opawe Road closure were to proceed as planned. You noted that the MDC appreciated that some road closures, especially those accessing a forest park, often faced objections by the public.

You also noted, for this reason, and utilising the LGA, public notice had been given. In light of the obvious loss to public access by the proposed Opawe Road closure, the MDC has given notice that it will create a new alternative road, guaranteeing enduring access to the forest park for the public.

I must congratulate the MDC on taking such a proactive approach to dealing with what often are difficult public access issues.

To better respond to the public enquiry on Opawe Road, and to reassure the public that access to the park will not be lost, would you please answer the following questions:

1. What mechanism will MDC be using to create this new road?
2. What is the time frame involved and when will the new road be available for public use?
3. Will the creation of secure public access to the forest park be contemporaneous with the closure Opawe Road, or a work in progress?

I believe that any potential objections to the Opawe Road closure would be reduced by the clarification of these questions around public access.

Regards,

Rod