

Review of the Walking Access Act 2008

Questions and Answers – May 2019

Q. What is the Walking Access Act 2008 about?

A. The purpose of the Act is to provide the New Zealand public with free, certain, enduring, and practical access to the outdoors. It is also the piece of legislation that established the New Zealand Walking Access Commission.

Q. What does the New Zealand Walking Access Commission do?

A. The Commission leads and supports the negotiation, establishment, maintenance, and improvement of walking access and types of access that may be associated with walking, such as access with firearms, dogs, bicycles, or motor vehicles. The Commission works with private landowners, local government, the Department of Conservation and others to carry out this work.

Q. When and how can I have my say?

A. The public feedback period for the Review of the Walking Access Act 2008 will run from 17 May to 2 July 2019. MPI has released *Reviewing the Walking Access Act 2008 – Public Feedback Paper* on its website at www.mpi.govt.nz/walkingaccessreview

The *Public Feedback Paper* contains questions for feedback. You can provide your feedback on the questions online at the above web page.

Alternatively, you can provide feedback by emailing walkingaccessreview@mpi.govt.nz

Or you can post your feedback on the questions to:

Ministry for Primary Industries
Walking Access Review Team
Environment & Communities Directorate
PO Box 2526
Wellington 6140

Please provide examples or evidence to support your responses, if possible. We'll be happy to hear your responses to any of the questions you're interested in – don't feel you have to answer them all!

Q. Are you going to hold any public meetings and hui?

We will be holding a small number of public meetings and hui. You are invited to attend these to find out more, ask questions and share your views. Feedback from these meetings and hui will be captured and analysed along with the written feedback we receive.

Evening public meetings are being planned for Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch in the week of 17-21 June. Further details will be provided shortly on www.mpi.govt.nz/walkingaccessreview

A small number of hui, which will have a focus on issues of particular interest to Māori, will also be held. Further details on these will also be provided shortly on www.mpi.govt.nz/walkingaccessreview

Q. What will happen after the public feedback period?

A. A report on the findings of the review will be prepared, which will be informed by responses received from the public. This report will be presented to the House of Representatives in September 2019, as required by Section 80 of the Walking Access Act 2008 (the Act). If the report on the findings of the review contains any recommendations for changing the Act, or any other act, or for other major changes, MPI will undertake formal consultation after September 2019.

Q. Why is the Walking Access Act 2008 being reviewed now?

A. The Act says there must be a review at the ten year mark.

Q. What is the main objective for the review?

A. To make sure that the Act is fit for the future.

Q. What will the review consider?

A. The review will consider whether the Act is needed, the operation and effectiveness of the Act, and whether changes to the Act are necessary or desirable. For more detail see the terms of reference for the review, accessible at www.mpi.govt.nz/walkingaccessreview

Q. Who will carry out the review?

A. MPI is leading this review, as it is responsible for administering the Walking Access Act 2008. A panel of three people, chaired by Dr Hugh Logan, will provide guidance on the review to MPI. The panel has experience in public access matters, Māori access issues and the public sector.