



Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee

Minute of Decision

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Walking Access Act 2008 Review Report

Portfolio Agriculture

On 12 September 2019, the Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee:

- 1 **noted** that a review of the Walking Access Act 2008 (the Act) is required under section 80(1) of the Act and that a report on the findings of the review is due to be presented to the House of Representatives by the end of September 2019;
- 2 **noted** that in November 2018, the Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee (ENV) noted that the Act is due for mandatory review, agreed the Terms of Reference for the review, and invited the Minister of Agriculture to report back to ENV on the findings of the review before the report is presented to the House in September 2019 [ENV-19-MIN-0041]
- 3 **noted** that the Act supports public access to the outdoors for walking and other recreation, and contributes to the government's wellbeing agenda;
- 4 **noted** that a review has been completed, including public engagement, and a report on the findings of the review with 30 recommendations is attached to the paper under ENV-19-SUB-0046;
- 5 **noted** that the review noted the continued necessity for the Act, the valued and valuable role of the New Zealand Walking Access Commission and concerns about its funding;
- 6 **noted** that the review recommended:
 - 6.1 that the name of the Act be changed to reflect outdoor access more broadly than just walking;
 - 6.2 that the Act be changed to acknowledge the Māori-Crown relationship under the Treaty of Waitangi;
 - 6.3 investigating formal integration of outdoor access-related agencies;
- 7 **noted** that the Minister of Agriculture intends to present the report to the House of Representatives before the end of September 2019, as required under the Act;

- 8 **noted** that no decisions are being requested on the recommendations of the review at this time;
- 9 **noted** that a formal policy process is now required on the recommended changes prior to any government decisions (such as possible funding for additional activities or legislative amendments);
- 10 **authorised** the Minister of Agriculture to make minor editorial changes to the report attached under ENV-19-SUB-0046 before it is presented to the House.

Vivien Meek
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon David Parker (Chair)
Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Hon Shane Jones
Hon James Shaw
Hon Eugenie Sage

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for ENV

Hard-copy distribution:

Minister of Agriculture