
Welcome to Trail Talk - a monthly newsletter all about the Around the Mountains Cycle Trail. This newsletter contains information and updates about construction and work on the trail, as well as other aspects including work being carried out with businesses and tourism interests.

July 2015



Appeal moves forward

Legal action around the appeal of Stage Two of the Around the Mountains Cycle Trail is slowly progressing.

A pre-trial conference was heard before Environment Court Judge Borthwick this week, with legal representatives of the appellant, applicant and consenting authorities.

The meeting was part of process following an appeal by Fish & Game to the Environment Court after the Oreti River section of Stage Two of the Around the Mountains Cycle Trail was granted resource consent by an independent commissioner.

The appealed consent was to construct and use a cycle trail, construct seven bridges and an underpass, to extract 2000 cubic metres of gravel and to construct culverts and boardwalks within road reserve.

Fish & Game and Southland District Council have been in discussion about the appeal but as yet have not come to an agreement.

Judge Borthwick said there are still opportunities for the appeal to be heard before the end of the year.





Work has resumed on the Around the Mountains Cycle Trail, having been halted due to very inclement weather, including plenty of snow.

Southland District Council Services and Assets Manager Ian Marshall said below-zero temperatures, snow and rain had forced work to stop last month but has now resumed as conditions improved. The trail is now being laid on sections 6 and 7 of the second stage of the trail.

“With winter far from over, it’s likely there will be more delays but we will be well and truly finished by spring and this will add to the length of trail cyclists can ride in the new cycling season.”

Work on these sections so far has included clearing vegetation, construction of a bridge, fencing and some trail work. The focus now will be the construction of the trail itself.



A signage project highlighting attractions and key information in towns along the cycle trail route is off to a good start, with the first panels to be installed this week.



Southland District Council communications manager Louise Pagan said two information signs, one each for Mossburn and Kingston, had been finished and would be installed in the next few days. The signs would highlight areas of interest in the towns, showing those using the trail what they were able to see and do while in the area and give them information about facilities available to them during their stay.

“They’re just that extra piece of information people can refer to, where they can see the details of where they are on the Around the Mountains Cycle Trail and what they can do while they’re here. We know our little towns and what is in each of them but, for the visitors coming from all over the world to use the cycle trail, this is new territory.”

The signs would outline how the concept of the Around the Mountains Cycle Trail came about and would include a map of the trail as well. The sign set to be installed in Kingston would be placed at the beginning of the cycle trail, while the Mossburn sign would be erected at an existing kiosk in the township, Mrs Pagan said.

But the pair of signs were just the start of a larger project currently in the works. Similar signs would soon be developed for Athol and Garston, and a slightly smaller sign would be created for Fairlight, she said.

Interpretation panels will also be placed along the trail itself later. These would draw riders’ attention to particular areas of interest, such as historically important places, along the trail and would add another element to the cyclists’ experiences.

Interpretation panels to go along the trail itself would also be created. These would draw riders’ attention to particular areas of interest, such as historically important places, along the trail, she said. Plans to create signage outlining those involved in the Official Partner Programme were also in the works.



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