



Council of Outdoor Recreation Associations of New Zealand Inc
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Court Conference Monday 29 November 2010 - re Former Rodney District Council proposal to close Higham Road, South Kaipara Head

The Council of Outdoor Recreation Associations (CORANZ) was a party to the previous Rodney District Council endeavours to close Higham Road. A very large number of submitters opposed any closure.

CORANZ is a national council of national and regional outdoor associations, representing the interests of some 12,000 outdoor recreationalists, including fishermen, anglers, jet boaters, four wheel drive clubs, recreational fishers, and public access advocates. Maintaining and improving public access to the outdoors is one of CORANZ's constitutional objects. We have participated in a number of access cases to maintain public access to the outdoors.

CORANZ objected strongly to any parts of the road being closed, because it is one of the few public roads that gives public road access to the Kaipara Harbour. In the Resource Management Act, one of the Section 6 - Matters of national importance is s 6 (d) "the maintenance and enhancement of public access to and along the coastal marine area, - "

Higham public road can be used now for walking access to the south Kaipara Harbour. In future it may be appropriate to upgrade it to vehicular access to allow people to access and enjoy the coast, launch boats there etc.

Because of this there is every case to leave the road alone. The case is, in our view, so strong, and so widely recognised by the very many people and groups that objected, that there is no need to continue wasting Auckland Council ratepayers funds, and those of objectors, on an issue that should never have been raised by Rodney District Councillors in the first place.

Consequently, CORANZ believes this case should be dropped. We urge the Auckland Council to do so. There is no case for closing any part of it.

We see it as inappropriate that mediation should be entered into. Mediation seems to be being proposed solely so that adjacent landowner to the road will benefit by changing the access to one that is far less attractive to the public, for the landowner's own perceived personal benefit.

Consequently we would only reluctantly enter mediation, and with the express goal of having the case dropped.

Yours truly

Dr Hugh Barr
Secretary