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Chief Executive Officer
Rodney District Council
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Dear Sir/Madam

Proposed closure of Higham Road, South Kaipara Head

The Council of Outdoor Recreation Associations of New Zealand (CORANZ*) **opposes and objects to the stopping of part of this road**, recently advertised by your Council.

One of CORANZ's goals is to retain and improve public access to the outdoors. The reasons CORANZ opposes and objects to the closure of Higham Road are:

1 Public recreational access to the coast is a matter of national importance under the Resource Management act [s 6 (d) The maintenance and enhancement of public access to and along the coastal marine area - - - ". Hence Rodney District Council has a duty to retain and develop such access, eg Higham Road.

2 The road provides walking access and potential future vehicle access to the South Arm of the Kaipara Harbour.

3 The nearest present boat launching ramp is at Shelly Beach, 12 Km to the south. It struggles to accommodate current usage, and demand is increasing annually.

4 There are only a small number of public access ways and launching ramps available to the South Kaipara Harbour. Hence those access opportunities that do exist, as with Higham Road, are valuable and should be kept.

5 There is no public benefit to closing the road. Instead public opportunity in the future to use this road will be removed. The cost of purchasing a replacement right-of-way here would be excessive.

Instead of closure, CORANZ asks that the unformed part of the public road to the coastline be marked and signposted by the Council as a public path, accessing the coast. Public roads, formed and unformed, are managed by your Council. So you have both the authority and

the responsibility to provide walking access, and when necessary, other forms of public access eg for cyclists or motor vehicles.

This submission has been approved by email by the CORANZ Governing Council. If hearings are held, we request to be heard. Please contact the Secretary.

Yours sincerely

Dr Hugh Barr
Secretary

*CORANZ is the national association of six major national outdoor recreation associations – New Zealand Federation of Freshwater Anglers, New Zealand Four Wheel Drive Association, Option4 – Recreational Sea Fishers' Trust, Public Access New Zealand, New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association; Jet Boating New Zealand, New Zealand Bowhunters' Society, and the regional Marlborough Recreational Fishers Association. Our member bodies have over 12,000 members. Our goal is to protect and increase public outdoor recreation areas, improve public access to them, and advance outdoor recreation generally.