



The Akatarawa Recreational Action Committee are:-

FRIENDS OF AKATARA WA

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Proposal for Recreational Enhancement to Cleary's Road

Cleary's Road represents the only reasonable access into the Akatarawa Forest from the Hutt for four-wheel drive vehicles during wet periods. During these times, the Pram Track cannot sustain frequent motorised use. With heavy weather, ARAC has repeatedly acknowledged Council's need to restrict or curtail recreational access to the Pram Track. This usually also includes closure of the Zigzag into Puketiro Forest.

Although debate is equally divided, when Cleary's Road is used to excess during these periods, it can become exceptionally greasy and quickly becomes very heavily rutted. Especially the area to the North between Top Hill and Toi Toi Road.

Whilst that part of the Track has been recently graded, it won't be long before degradation takes its toll, and the ruts are formed once again.

How best to manage the track surface?

Many groups enjoy the challenge of a heavily rutted, muddy track. Others with perhaps more sedate or less powerful vehicles are less than impressed.

Can we satisfy both needs?

ARAC's proposal, is to provide two parallel tracks for the 200 or so metres between Top Hill and the climb up to Toi Toi. One would be maintained as an all weather track, with regular maintenance and resurfacing as and when necessary. The other (the now current route) would be allowed to decay to become a more challenging wet weather "bog".

At least this way, all parties can have their cake and eat it. In addition, Council will be afforded another sustainable arterial route should the Pram Track become unusable even by their own vehicles.

The ecological cost of sacrificing more vegetation is seen as minimal. The ground cover is currently of low quality secondary regrowth. The fiscal costs can be the subject of further discussion. Nonetheless, ARAC would be happy to take over the maintenance of the all weather diversion.