

Nationwide CMS partial reviews for biking

Project update 2, 13 March 2023

A note from the team

Kia ora koutou,

Thank you for your continuing interest in the nationwide Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) partial review for biking!

It's been a few months since our last update. So, what have we been up to? In this update, we will cover:

- The scope for the project
- Developing sample provisions, including criteria for the no-go areas
- Engaging with Conservation Boards
- Planning our next steps

It's the ultra-distance event of CMS reviews, with multiple stages (and lots of uphill). We need to plan our approach well.

With this in mind, we've been steadily pedalling forward (Ok, I'll stop with the bike analogies). We've been working with Conservation Boards and others to understand regional issues and aims for biking opportunities. This will help us decide which regional CMS partial reviews to prioritise.

We'll be asking for your feedback on our proposed approach over the coming months! You can always reach out to us at

NationalReviewBikingCMS@doc.govt.nz if you have any questions in the meantime.

Ngā mihi,

The Management Planning Team

What is our proposed approach?

We propose that each CMS identifies “no-go” areas where biking won't be considered. The CMS would then allow consideration of new biking opportunities in all other areas (excluding national parks). This doesn't mean the CMS will allow biking just anywhere else. It just allows us to assess new proposals against strengthened criteria whereas, currently, we can't even consider new proposals unless they are already provided for in the CMS.

This new approach will be incorporated into reviews already underway of the **Te Hiku** (Hokianga Harbour and Mangonui northwards), Te Tai o Poutini West Coast (contact wetpcms@doc.govt.nz for more details), and **Bay of Plenty** CMS.

Apart from allowing us to consider biking proposals in the future without needing to review CMS, the approach will provide:

- a nationally consistent approach to considering biking opportunities, and
- transparency in terms of criteria to be used to make decisions.

We're currently testing our proposed approach with Conservation Boards across the country and this will be followed by consultation with iwi, hapū and whānau in regions where partial reviews may be prioritised.

Development of sample provisions

We have been working on developing sample provisions that can be adapted to reflect local values and factors. The development of criteria to identify 'no-go' areas is central to this. Every region is different so a



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“one size fits all” approach wouldn’t work. Examples of “no go” areas might be areas of high natural or cultural importance.

The sample provisions will also include criteria for considering new biking proposals based on those added to the **Otago CMS**.

We’ll be testing them along the way with Conservation Boards, iwi, biking groups, as well as other stakeholder groups. When we met with biking and other interest groups in 2021, they provided us with some excellent insight which has been feeding into drafting of the approach. We look forward to speaking to everyone again in the next few months!

Sample provisions will be customised in each CMS review so there will be lots of opportunities for public engagement when individual reviews are initiated.

Conservation board engagement

We’ve been attending Conservation Board meetings to discuss the proposed approach. We’ve been providing an overview of how biking is managed under the CMS for their area and any issues that have arisen from this approach. You can find the generic presentation we’ve been sharing [here](#).

We’ve been seeking Boards’ perspectives on biking issues in their regions as well as their initial thoughts on our planned approach. The conversations have been extremely useful. Once we’ve spoken to each Board, we’ll combine their feedback and move onto engagement with iwi, hapū and whānau in regions where partial reviews may be prioritised.

Cyclone Gabrielle has slowed some of our engagement with Conservation Boards as they have more pressing issues to address.

What is out of scope for this project?

Biking in national parks	Biking in national parks needs to be addressed through reviews of national park management plans.
A partial review of Policy 9.5(b) the Conservation	A partial review of CGP Policy 9.5(b) is not being considered. The Policy relates to more than bikes and each CMS would still need to be reviewed to include the changes

General Policy (CGP)	to the CGP and include the criteria for proposed bike tracks to be assessed against.
Creation of a national biking strategy	A national biking strategy will need to be developed in the long-term but it won’t be addressed as part of this project.

Existing bike tracks not provided for in the CMS

We know there have been bike tracks allowed which aren’t provided for under the current CMS.

While we can address these through partial reviews to CMS, we recognise a more immediate solution is required to address uncertainty for those maintaining and riding these tracks. We will be working with the biking community to develop an approach to address this over the coming months.

Next, we will...

- Complete the current round of engagement with Conservation Boards.
- Test the first draft of sample provisions internally and with Conservation Boards, iwi, and biking and other interest groups
- Develop a prioritised programme of reviews
- Begin engaging with iwi, hapū and whānau in regions where CMS reviews are identified as a priority
- Plan approach for addressing existing tracks that are not consistent with the CMS

How to get in touch

We will keep you updated through the website and if you have any questions, or want to be added to our contacts list, please email us at:

NationalReviewBikingCMS@doc.govt.nz

More information can also be found on the project by visiting the **DOC website**. We’ll do another update in June so you can keep up with our progress!