



PO Box 37143 Parnell, Auckland, New Zealand
nz4x4challenges@4x4challenges.org.nz

Ruapehu District Council
Private Bag 1001
Taumarunui

6 May 2005

4x4 Challenges NZ Inc.
Submission on Draft Land Transport Proposal

4x4 Challenges NZ Inc. opposes any plans to impose vehicle use restrictions on Fishers Road.

Ruapehu District Council appear to be "stopping" a legal road by a "backdoor" method, utilising a process of restricting classes of vehicles to create what would effectively a "reserve". A legal road can not be a road with established right of passage and be a reserve at the same time.

There are already large areas of existing reserve lands in various forms in the Fishers Rd neighbourhood but limited road access. By imposing vehicle restrictions the Council would also discriminate against people with limited personal mobility. It is an admirable task for some in the local community to consider creating a walking track using the road as a basis but that action in itself is restrictive to many people. The road network was created to allow travel without obstruction and to create a walking track obstructs other legal methods of travel. By all means create walking routes off a road but to commandeer a road is unreasonable.

The choice of restricted vehicle classes, as proposed by the Community Board and the reference as "unsuitable", is a biased viewpoint. Their list allows MA class (passenger cars) which would pose probable problems of safety etc. Since that class could probably not actually travel Fishers Rd at present and restricting a class of vehicle that can, the logic is clearly to stop traffic and create a de-facto reserve. It is noted that Heavy Vehicles are not otherwise restricted on District roads according to Schedule 15. The road is still available to motorcycles and "quads", along with bicycles under the Draft Proposal.

We ask that the draft proposal to restrict specific vehicle use of Fishers Road be withdrawn.

We request 10 minutes of speaking time at Taumarunui.

Eileen Austin
Secretary (phone #)

