

15 Hillside Tce
Witherlea
Blenheim
New Zealand 7201

18 April 2023

Annual Plan Submission
Marlborough District Council
PO Box 443
Blenheim 7240

Submission REF 230 444 534

Please find attached a paper requesting:

- 1 Approval to build five more bike cattle stops in the Farm Park.
- 2 The Marlborough District Council (MDC) to
 - a) employ and pay a contractor to do any fencing required and drive the posts for the five proposed structures,
 - b) pay for all material with estimated total cost for contractor and materials \$9,500.

The writers will contribute 'in kind' materials and labour to the estimated value of \$6,500.

To date we have built 23 cycle access structures (bike cattle stops) in the Farm Park with voluntary labour.

The cattle stops are required for ease of access for walkers and bikers on trails in the Farm Park when the Farm Manager is obliged to lock gates to ensure livestock stay where they are put. A few members of the public are prone to opening and then not shutting gates after passing through. The sum requested is small relative to the likely source category budgets from Roads, Paths and Cycle ways (\$45m) or from Community Facilities (\$14m).

The five proposed structures (diamonds) on Map 1 will complete of the project, will provide greater peace-of-mind for the Farm Manager, freer passage for all recreation users and add value to a great community asset.

We are very keen to finish this project and look forward to a favourable reply.

Kind regards.



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Development Project for the Farm Park – Part 4

1 Introduction

The Farm Park is a tremendous rate-payer owned asset at the back door of Blenheim. It is leased out by Marlborough District Council (MDC) for farming and extensively used for recreation including walking, running and mountain biking. Mountain bikes are both traditional pedal bikes and increasingly, e-bikes.

Unfortunately, a small minority of recreation users fail to re-shut gates after passing through allowing livestock to make un-timely moves creating additional work for the Farm Manager. He in turn locks gates hindering easy passage.

Installation of twenty three cycle access structure (mountain bike cattle stops) to date with voluntary labour has been a win-win for all concerned on two high use routes viz. the Mapp Track and the Mt Vernon circuit. The new 'cycle access structures' compliment the long standing 11 structures on the Stock Yard and Rifle Range tracks. Five more on Upper Reservoir and Harling Spurs will complete the project. See diamonds on Map 1.

2 Estimated Costs

The estimated cost to MDC for five cattle stops is \$9,500, i.e. an average of \$1,900 each. The value of in-kind labour and material supplied is an estimated additional \$6,500. Cost estimates are based on the six structures recently completed in February 2023 on Mt Vernon and Cobb Cottage Hill plus allowances for the significantly increased cost/meter of timber and an increase in cost for contract fencing.

Cost to MDC of last six cattle stops built was \$8,460 or \$1,410 each.

3 Farm Park Management Plan

The project has ticked boxes in the current Farm Park Management Plan:

- It is a community partnership enhancing public activity and experience in the Farm Park.
- Has no impact on the landscape and natural features.

Completion of the project will be a great milestone in the development of the Farm Park.

4 Support

The Farm Manager (Lyall Barriball) is supportive.

The Chair and committee of the Marlborough Mountain Bike Club (the Club) also support the project.

There is considerable support from the general mountain biking community. Un-solicited favourable comment on the new structures and pedestrian gates has also been received from many walkers.

5 Timing

It is anticipated the structures will be completed by December 2023.

We are primarily dependent on the availability of Mike Renner Fencing to drive the posts and do any required fencing. Lambing and the weather may be other influences on time of completion.

6 Conclusion

The five proposed structures will complete the project, will provide greater peace-of-mind for the Farm Manager, freer passage for all recreation users and add value to a great community asset.

We are very keen to proceed.

8 Request

1 Approval to build five more bike cattle stops in the Farm Park.

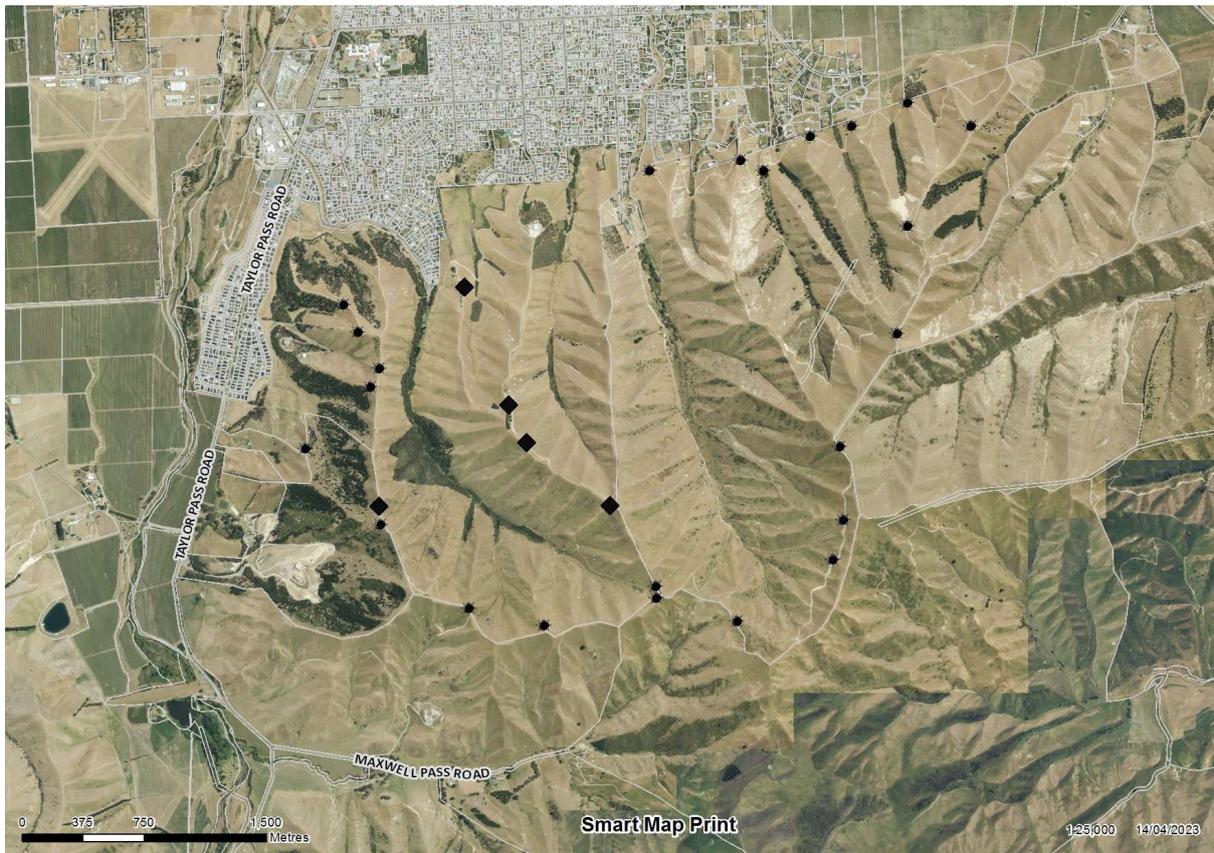
2 The Marlborough District Council (MDC) to

- a) employ and pay a contractor to do any fencing required and drive the posts for the five proposed structures and
- b) pay for all material with an estimated total cost for contractor and materials of \$9,500.

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Kevin Wilson
Peter Blackmore

Map 1: Showing location in the Farm Park of new and proposed bike cattle stops



Mt Vernon 2: Stages of the build

