



**Submission from Living Streets Aotearoa on
e-bike trials in parks**

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Submission

Living Streets Aotearoa thanks the committee for this opportunity to submit on the electric motorised bike trial in our parks.

We oppose the use of motorised vehicles on ordinary tracks in our parks whatever the power source. Increased use of vehicles in our parks detracts from the reason that most people like to go to them, which is to spend time in natural green environments and 'getting away' from the road environment.

Motorised vehicles should be confined to roadways and four wheel drive tracks. It should also be made clear they are required, like all vehicles, to follow the road rules at all times.

We suggest the WCC express concern to the government that motorised bikes and other vehicles are not being properly regulated and it is time for an urgent review of the road rules relating to them.

We have not seen many e-bikes in the parks but where we have they travel too quickly, and are too quiet. However there is some evidence of e-bikes passing with the heavier vehicles, wider tyres, greater torque and ground pressure causing obvious damage to the tracks.

Increasing use of more vehicles (both push and motorised bike) is having an effect on our park tracks and will lead to higher maintenance requirements. WCC does not appear to adequately maintain the tracks we have now with no motorised vehicles. How will it cope with the impact from these vehicles.

We note the South Coast Road (along the beach) is already a four wheel drive road that appears to be open to all vehicles users.

We would like to be heard in support of our submission.

About Living Streets

Living Streets Aotearoa is New Zealand's national walking and pedestrian organisation, providing a positive voice for people on foot and working to promote walking friendly planning and development around the country. Our vision is "More people choosing to walk more often and enjoying public places".

The objectives of Living Streets Aotearoa are:

- to promote walking as a healthy, environmentally-friendly and universal means of transport and recreation
- to promote the social and economic benefits of pedestrian-friendly communities
- to work for improved access and conditions for walkers, pedestrians and runners including walking surfaces, traffic flows, speed and safety
- to advocate for greater representation of pedestrian concerns in national, regional and urban land use and transport planning.

For more information, please see: www.livingstreets.org.nz