

# Te Ara O Hei- "The Path of Hei" (Coromandel Walks) - Project Fact Sheet # 6

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - PARKING, VISITOR AND TRAFFIC ISSUES**

*What monitoring and measurements have been taken around traffic and visitor numbers around Hahei and surrounds?*

Parking occupancy surveys and pedestrian surveys were undertaken on 2 January 2016 which helped to inform MWH Traffic report which recommended short medium and long term solutions for addressing peak traffic issues. Future monitoring will be looked at, once key infrastructure and the walks have been completed, this will help inform further changes and address issues as and when they arise in the future.

### **What does the MWH traffic assessment report say about how to address parking issues in Hahei now and into the future?**

MWH is an independent company that provides technical engineering, construction services and consulting services. Our Council commissioned MWH to assess growing parking and traffic issues at Hahei and surrounds and provide recommendations to help solve these issues. The MWH report stated a need to provide additional parking at the Hahei Village Entrance car park, and also to provide a new car park at Lees Road, as well as supporting shuttle services.

The key to the multi-faceted solution is to spread the load and traffic volumes away from Hahei Village, by providing parking at Lees Road and a new entrance to Cathedral Cove and includes an integrated shuttle service. The report goes on to state that to support the growth in visitor (with or without the Walks Project), a new Lees Road car park is required alongside a Park and Ride service operating out of the Hahei Village Entrance car park to address existing parking issues.

The Report recommends the following:

1. Provision of 200 car parks at the Hahei Village Entrance car park and 150 space car park at Lees Road as soon as possible (and expand Lees Road to 500 spaces by 2018/2019);
2. Grange Road becomes be a drop off for tour buses and park and ride shuttles only (peak);
3. Disabled parking to be provided for at Grange Road;
4. Sealing of Lees Road to the car park and further improvements to the end of the road, plus traffic management to restrict any on-street parking of Lees Road ;
5. Expansion of park and ride service to Hahei shops;
6. Provision of temporary overflow car parks for Pa Road, with a requirement on commercial operators to use Pa Road car park rather than unsealed beach front.
7. Promotion and expansion of existing Ferry Landing- Hot Water Beach shuttle service.

The full MWH draft report can be viewed at [www.tcdc.govt.nz/ccwalk](http://www.tcdc.govt.nz/ccwalk)

### **What is the strategic thinking behind having a car park at Lees Rd and will a car park at Lees Rd take business away from Hahei Village?**

Lees Road provides an ideal solution, distributing vehicles away from Hahei village, while also providing an alternative access to Cathedral Cove. Lees Road car park will help to service visitors who are visiting Cathedral Cove only to tick a box, take a photo, and leave again to get to Hot Water Beach

in time for the low tide. Their time is limited – they have one day to do both sites, before they drive to places like Rotorua or Taupo. Lees Road carpark will help to take this non-spending visitor traffic away from Hahei village. There will still be Hahei Village Entrance car park, and supporting shuttle services between car parks via Hahei Village to promote business in Hahei.

The introduction of Lees Road car park and expansion at the Hahei Village Entrance car park, together with the continuation of the summer time Park and Ride service, are key facilities which should be introduced as soon as possible. To meet demand by 2021, the existing supply of parking within Hahei will not be sufficient and both the proposed 200 space car park at the Hahei Village Entrance and 500 space car parks at Lees Road are required regardless of whether or not the Walks Project is progressed.

### **How will parking along Lees Road be managed (e.g. to avoid freedom camping)?**

As part of the upgrade of Lees Road, the proposed no parking bylaw will be extended to the end of Lees Road. On-going monitoring and enforcement of parking will continue once the car parks are built to ensure that changes are able to be made to address any issues.

### **How will the projected increase in traffic as a result of the Walks be managed at Lees Road, particularly traffic up the end of the road?**

The MWH Report estimates that there will be a peak summer daily traffic increase of between 400-900 vehicles over the summer period due to the walks. This equates to about one extra car every three minutes over a month. A significant part of the Lees Road improvements will include signage, road marking as well as design solutions to steer vehicles to Lees Road car park as the main entrance to Cathedral Cove. Our parking bylaws are also being reviewed this summer, and will help ensure that enforcement of on-street parking at Grange Road, Pa Road and Lees Road will be up and running the following year.

### **Who will fund the car parks and where will the revenue go?**

The Hahei Village Entrance car park will be funded locally through the Mercury Bay rating base, whereas Lees Road car park and road improvements are being funded by district rates. The revenue gathered from the Hahei Village Entrance car park will be used for local improvements related to tourism in Mercury Bay, further work with the local community board and Hahei community will ensure the right projects are prioritised.

Revenue from the Lees Road car park will go towards on-going maintenance of the Walks, as well as paying off the capital for the car park and road improvements. This will greatly reduce risks to the future ratepayer, and has the potential to fully fund on-going maintenance of the Walks as well as pay off the roading infrastructure over the next 7 years.

### **With the Pay and Display at Pa Road, how will Council manage issues with on-street parking in surrounding streets?**

We acknowledge that on-street parking occurs in most communities around the Coromandel during the summer months. Monitoring of on-street parking will be on-going over the summer and formalisation of on-street parking could be a potential solution along with others that the community suggests via its Community Plan. With the revenue generated from the Pay and Display at Pa road, self-funding of parking solutions within Hahei has the potential to be rate neutral.

### **Why are Council looking at paid parking at the car parks?**

We recognise the importance of correct pricing for the car parks, to ensure revenue is generated and to encourage usage of the pay and display facilities. Through a working group with local community appropriate pricing will be established for Pa Road, Lees Road. This working group will also consider how concessions and multi-pass tickets might work through a commercial shuttle service.

**Has there been any thought around commercial opportunities for a shuttle bus service from Ferry Landing through to Lees Rd, Hot Water Beach?**

The MWH Report emphasises the importance of a shuttle service from Ferry Landing to Lees Road, Hahei and Hot Water Beach. This is a critical factor in the success of traffic management and distribution of people from Whitianga and further afield. This is a piece of work now being led out of our Mercury Bay Area Office. Expressions of interest have been sought for operation of a shuttle bus for this coming summer 2016/2017.

**What is being done to manage traffic and parking this summer (2016-2017)?**

- The Park and Ride car park will be running at Pa Rd, Hahei, from 27 December 2015 to 1 February 2016. It will also operate over Waitangi Weekend 2016. Traffic Ambassadors are also being employed to manage traffic flows at the Grange Rd car park at Cathedral Cove and direct people to the Pa Rd Park and Ride. Our parking enforcement officers will be patrolling hotspot areas around Hahei at least twice a day over peak summer. We're also looking to extend the Park and Ride service to include more days of the year and longer-term considering keeping it open all year round once the proposed Lees Road car park is constructed.