

Temporary Road Closure Approval – Hibiscus Coast Motorsport Club Event 15 July 2023

Meeting: Kaipara District Council
Date of meeting: 28 June 2023
Reporting officer: Dean Mitchell, Road Corridor Management Specialist
Bernard Petersen, Maintenance and Operations Manager

Purpose | Ngā whāinga

To seek approval from the Council to close Arcadia Rd for one day to facilitate a safe motorsport event.

Executive summary | Whakarāpopototanga

Approve the application for a temporary closure of Arcadia Road, from Saturday 15 July 2023 at 7.00 am until 6.00 pm Saturday 15 July 2023, to allow the Rally sprint event to proceed in a safe manner.

Recommendation | Ngā tūtohunga

That Kaipara District Council:

- a) Approves the application for the temporary road closure of Arcadia Road, Paparoa on Saturday 15 July 2023 from 7.00 am to 6.00 pm.
- b) Notes that the organiser must do a letter drop to all businesses and residents located within the road closure as a condition of this approval.

Context/Horopaki

Under the Local Government Act 1974 Schedule 10, 11(e), Council is required to advertise any road closure at least 42 days in advance of an event. The decision to close the road is to be approved by Council under the Local Government Act 1974, s319.

The Hibiscus Coast Motorsport Club (HCMC), Arcadia Rd Rally sprint will be held on Saturday 15 July 2023 at 7.00 am until Saturday 15 July 2023 at 6.00 pm.

To carry out this event in a safe manner the applicants have applied for the temporarily closure of Arcadia Road.

The Rally event is normally held earlier in the year and the road closure to hold the event in February 2023 was approved by Council, however, due to the extreme weather conditions, the Rally was deferred to later in the year, therefore a new application for the road closure is required.

The Rally organisers have consulted with residents of Arcadia Road regarding the event and have received support to hold this event later in July. However, one objection was received.

Discussion/Ngā kōrerorero

HCMC Arcadia Road Rally sprint

The proposed traffic management plan necessitates the temporary closure of Arcadia Road as shown in Attachment A. The proposed traffic management plan requires the road to be closed from 8:00am to 6:00pm Saturday 15th July. The closure of the road will provide a safe zone for residents, participants, volunteers and supporters.

As part of the consultation process, NTA received one objection to this rally on 20 June by phone from a property owner as follows:

[Name suppressed] called wishing to speak to whomever it was that gave permission for Arcadia Road and Bulls Road to be closed for a Rally Group. They are incensed due to nothing being done to repair these roads. They have logging trucks up and down daily, there are areas down to 1 x lane, road falling away down the bank, no metal spread, no grader attended, and now this? Call her please as she wishes to have this overturned, or repairs done.

In response to this

1. NTA staff called the objector to acknowledge receipt.
2. the Rally sprint organisers completed a drive over of Arcadia Road 18 June (see video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ZcHg68t_5A).
3. undertook a letter drop into mailboxes of the local community.
4. an NTA roading inspector travelled Arcadia Road on 21 June, identified areas for scheduled maintenance, however, no significant issues noted.
5. Further to points 2 and 4 above, the NTA believes that the risk to Arcadia Road for deterioration beyond what can be reasonable covered by the event holders bond and conventional maintenance intervention, to be low. This is reinforced by historic rally events previously held on this road, and recent Rally NZ stages completed across various Whangarei and Far North roads, where it was noted that event related damages were negligible.
6. an NTA roading maintenance team member is calling this objector to work through their maintenance concerns.

Options

Option A: Approve the application for the temporary road closure on 15 July 2023.

By choosing option A, the council supports a safer event for the community, event participants and road users, and recognises this event contributes to a prosperous economy in Kaipara District. Refer to attachment B for details on the Arcadia Rally Road Damage Bond Authority to remediate if road damage does occur.

Option B: Decline application for the temporary road closure.

Declining this application would mean the event does not go ahead as we have an obligation to provide a safe environment for the community and event participants. As well the local community and businesses that form part of the event support will be disappointed and potentially financially impacted.

The recommendation is Option A.

Policy and planning implications

Local Government Act 1974, s319 – General powers of Council in respect of roads.

Section 319(1)(h) includes “to stop or close any road or part thereof in the manner and upon the conditions set out in s342 and Schedule 10”.

Financial implications

The applicant will bear the costs of temporarily closing the road.

A bond of \$5,000 has been provided by HCMC for damage to the road caused by the rally event, however, should the cost exceed the bond amount for repairs to the road, this will be at Councils expense.

Risks and mitigations

Council should be aware, that while NTA staff have assessed the risk of damage to the road as low, there is a high likelihood of damage to the unsealed metal road during the event, should the current wet weather continue further saturating the road subbase.

Significance and engagement/Hirahira me ngā whakapāpā

This is not a significant decision in accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. This event has been publicly notified in the Kaipara Lifestyler and the Northern Advocate issue dated 8 May 2023.

No objections were received during the notification period.

Next steps/E whaiake nei

Advise the applicant of the council's decision. If approved, give public notice and advise stakeholders of the decision to close roads under Clause 11a of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 1974. Applicant to undertake letter drop to all residents/businesses located in and around the closure.

Attachments/Ngā tapiritanga

	Title
A	Arcadia Rally Traffic Management Plan
B	Arcadia Rally Road Damage Bond Authority