

Notice is hereby given that an Ordinary Meeting of Southland District Council will be held on:

Date: Wednesday, 8 June 2016
Time: 9am
Meeting Room: Council Chambers
Venue: 15 Forth Street
Invercargill

Council Agenda - Late Items

OPEN

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Temporary Road Closure - Old Snow Pole Track

Record No: R/16/6/8418
Author: Bruce Miller, Community Engineer
Approved by: Steve Ruru, Chief Executive

Decision Recommendation Information

Purpose

- 1 The purpose of the report is to seek Council approval to temporarily prohibit vehicles along a defined section of the Old Snow Pole Track to prevent damage to the road.

Executive Summary

- 2 Southland District Council is concerned about allowing access to the area during winter months. Not only is there a safety issue in traversing an isolated area subject to sudden climatic changes, but there is an environmental issue where vehicles cause damage to a fragile area. As a result Council has made the decision to close the road from early May to October in the past. It is proposed that Council agree to that again this year and in subsequent years.

Recommendation

That the Council:

- a) **Receives the report titled “Temporary Road Closure - Old Snow Pole Track” dated 7 June 2016.**
- b) **Determines that this matter or decision be recognised not significant in terms of Section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002.**
- c) **Determines that it has complied with the decision-making provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 to the extent necessary in relation to this decision; and in accordance with Section 79 of the Act determines that it does not require further information, further assessment of options or further analysis of costs and benefits or advantages and disadvantages prior to making a decision on this matter.**
- d) **Resolves pursuant to Section 342(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1974 and Clause 13 of the Tenth Schedule to temporarily close and prohibit traffic using that section of road commencing at the point where Old Snow Pole Track joins Canton Road and continuing along that section of Old Snow Pole Track to the Boundary of the Southland District Council with the Central Otago District Council for the period 4 June 2016 to 20 October 2016 owing to climatic conditions because the use of that section of road may cause the road.**
- e) **Resolves that prohibition under clause (d) above shall apply to all motor vehicular traffic such that it will be an offence for any unauthorised vehicle to use the above described section of road during the period of prohibition and that authorised vehicles shall be those belonging to adjacent run holders and those to whom written authorisation has been given after special application to the Council.**
- f) **Erects an appropriate notice as required by clause 14 of the Tenth Schedule at every entry to the road affected and publishes an appropriate public notice in the relevant newspapers.**
- g) **Sends a copy of its resolution under clause 13 of the Tenth Schedule to the Minister of Transport for information as required by clause 15 of the Tenth Schedule.**
- h) **Grants permission for Snowcat and Scenic Tours, access to the Waikaia Bush Road north of the locked gate control at Christies Hut during the period of the winter road closure using snowcat type vehicles with rubber belted tracks and should excessive damage to the road occur, as determined by the Group Manager Services and Assets, then the permission be withdrawn immediately.**
- i) **Resolves, pursuant to Section 342(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1974 and Clause 13 of the Tenth Schedule, to close the Old Snow Pole Track Road from the first Tuesday in May to midnight on the Thursday prior to a Labour Weekend in subsequent years.**

- j) **Notes that Council at its meeting on 16 May 2012 granted delegated authority to the Strategic Transport Manager by way of section 12 of the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974 for the temporary closure of roads.**

Content

Background

- 3 The closure of the Old Snow Pole Track has been a regular occurrence for the winter months since 1981. The road is very much a four-wheel drive dry weather track and will test the skills of the most experienced four-wheel enthusiasts.

Issues

- 4 The main issue to consider in the temporary road closure is of vehicles accessing an area of land that is subject to snow in the winter months. This access is prohibited to reduce the effects on the environment

Factors to Consider

Legal and Statutory Requirements

- 5 The temporary road closure is required to be completed under Section 342(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1974 and Clause 13 of the Tenth Schedule.

Community Views

- 6 The temporary road closure is likely to be welcomed by the Authorities and the local communities as there is an imposition on them to tow vehicles from the Old Snow Pole Track in bad weather at all times of the day and night.

Costs and Funding

- 7 There will be a cost to advertise the road closures each year in the relevant newspapers.

Policy Implications

- 8 There are no policy implications.

Analysis

Options Considered

- 9 There is only one option for this temporary road closure and that is the safe option to temporarily close the road during winter months, to assist in keeping people safe and to help reduce environmental damage to the track.

Assessment of Significance

- 10 The temporary road closure is considered to be not significant.

Recommended Option

- 11 The recommended option is to temporarily close the road during winter months, to assist in keeping people safe and to help reduce environmental damage to the track.

Next Steps

- 12 To ensure that the Old Snow Pole Track is closed for the winter and that this is conveyed to the public.

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.