



Sustainable Trail Management Practice Principles

Te Araroa has a Regenerative Trail Strategy, which includes the promotion of sustainable trail management practices in the construction and maintenance of the physical walking track and associated facilities. The following principles should guide the implementation of sustainable trail management.

1. Respecting Cultural and Spiritual Values

- Ensure Te Araroa does not encourage or tempt walkers to access areas that are sacred or tapu
- Encourage respect for places of cultural and spiritual significance (e.g. maunga, marae)
- Ensure Te Araroa passage near or through cultural heritage sites does not cause damage (i.e. appropriate trail design, provision of suitable viewing places, and discouraging inappropriate access or behaviour)
- Facilitate the dissemination of cultural history through signage and the incorporation of design features in trail and facilities that reflect cultural values of places

2. Trail Route Selection

- Support ongoing public access to open spaces, important places and natural environments.
- Encourage landowners to allow Te Araroa access across private land where this can be managed in a way that does not compromise landowner use and enjoyment of the land (e.g. utilisation of riparian strips or QEII covenanted land)
- Avoid at risk environments where it is difficult to manage the adverse effects of visitation (e.g. vulnerable kauri forests, sensitive wetlands, bird breeding areas)
- Minimise the visual impact of Te Araroa on natural landscapes (i.e. use low impact construction or select alignments that are less visible)
- Respect the rights of adjacent landowners of Te Araroa to enjoy their land in privacy

3. Trail Design and Formation

- Ensure that parts of Te Araroa are accessible to the widest range of users so that the opportunity for enjoyment of TA is open to as many people as

possible. (i.e. developing some sections of Te Araroa to “Short Walk” and “Walking Track” standard)

- Use best practice technology to find the optimum track solutions that have minimum adverse effect on the environment and achieve other objectives, whilst being cost effective.
- Consider and managing whole-of-life costs and impacts associated with Te Araroa construction
- Adopt natural trail design options wherever possible, rather than highly modified or engineered solutions (i.e. planted vegetation slope stability rather than elaborate retaining walls)
- Consider and adopt climate change resilience onto Te Araroa trail design through selection of smart solutions that are less vulnerable to extreme events and are easily repaired. (i.e. retreat from eroding river edges and avoid building facilities in vulnerable sites)

4. Materials Selection

- Use low carbon emission, low energy material options wherever possible. (i.e. timber structures)
- Use locally sourced materials if possible (i.e. on site or nearby aggregates, re-purposed local materials)
- Choose materials that have reasonable durability so that ongoing renewal is not a burden for the Trust in the future. (i.e. using properly treated timber rather than punga or untreated macrocarpa for track and facility construction)
- Choose materials that can be installed and maintained with locally sourced skills and equipment.

5. Resources and Community

- Foster ownership and guardianship of Te Araroa within local communities and service organisations.
- Use Te Araroa construction and maintenance activity as a catalyst to develop skills and work opportunity in the local communities and businesses (i.e. provide technical advice and support local suppliers in developing the necessary H&S and contracting procedures)
- Encourage inclusiveness in the resourcing of Te Araroa construction and maintenance (i.e. avoid large blanket contracts that preclude opportunity for emerging suppliers; share the work to multiple suppliers)
- Be aware and compliant with District Plan and Regional Plan rules and guidelines.
- Te Araroa should be exemplar in demonstrating sustainable trail practice