



Media Release

Friday 23 September 2011

Feedback sought on Draft Central Otago Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2011-2021

Central Otago is a premier New Zealand outdoor wonderland from walking, cycling, mountain-biking and swimming to boating, fishing, ice skating and skiing.

After extensive discussions with key stakeholders including sporting groups, government agencies and landowners, Central Otago has its first Outdoor Recreation Strategy. This strategy aims to ensure we retain, improve and develop our amazing outdoor playground going forward into the future.

A number of significant factors arose during discussions, including the widening variety of outdoor pursuits which has led to competition for the same spaces, more intensive land use, access issues, an increasing local population keen to enjoy and engage in the outdoors and rising visitor numbers and expectations. All these factors have contributed for the need of a well-managed approach to outdoor recreation in Central Otago.

The strategy includes recommendations for the following activities: air activities, mountain biking, road cycling, climbing, four wheel driving, gold panning, hunting, ice sports, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, observational recreation, trail bikes and motorbikes, walking/tramping/running, water related activities, swimming/picnicking, fishing, boating, jet skiing, water skiing, wakeboarding, wind surfing, kite surfing, yachting, canoeing, kayaking, rowing and diving.

There are a range of suggested recommendations in the strategy: these are just a few:

- Mountain biking – Develop further trails such as Alexandra to Roxburgh and Clyde to Wanaka
- Four Wheel Driving – Easy and moderate tracks are well signed, well maintained and have good information
- Road cycling – Identify and promote (maps, signs, web) road cycling circuits over the district
- Walking/tramping/running – Collaboration between agencies to standardise signage and public information to provide a quality walking experience
- Boating – investigate boat launching facilities below Clyde Dam.

Council's Community Development Manager, Rebecca Findlay said "We need to know whether we are heading in the right direction and would welcome people's feedback on what they think, and to have a say on the future of outdoor recreation in Central Otago."

The draft strategy is out for public comment until 11 November 2011. Individual sections as well as a full copy are available online at www.centralotagonz.co and www.codc.govt.nz or from the Central Otago District Council offices, libraries or visitor centres.

Submissions will be heard in late November 2011 by a working group that represent the range of recreational users within the district.

For more information please contact:

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