



Waikaremoana Great Walk Fully Open

In September 2018 Te Urewera, Waikaremoana experienced some extreme weather patterns. Heavy rainfall caused Rivers to swell to capacity, flash flooding, road closure due to many slips and blowouts and trees were left piled underneath rock and rubble. This weather event caused Waikaremoana to be cut off from Wairoa and Ruatāhuna for a week. Fortunately, there were no casualties and everyone remained in good spirits during this time. The Waikaremoana Great Walk also took a lashing, with these manmade objects no match for nature's force. After a review of the GW, serious safety issues were found between Waiopāoa and Waiharuru.



After an assessment of the track, and based on the high risks to Human safety the track was closed until repairs could be completed. A lot of time and effort went into the planning of the repair work and the approach to this was guided by the principles from Te Kawa o Te Urewera as well as the concept of our Living buildings. The delay caused frustration for those who had booked to do the GW as repairs took longer than anticipated, we offer our sincere gratitude for the patience and understanding shown while Tūhoe and DOC worked through their difference of approach. We can now report that repairs have been completed on the closed area of the track. Karakia has been completed by hau kaina and the partially closed part of the track is now fully open.

Let's care more for the health and wellbeing of Te Urewera so she can continue to care for us and our children's children