

[REDACTED]

From: EastCoast
Sent: Thursday, 2 December 2021 12:52 PM
To: 'Ted Howard'
Cc: Sarah Edmonds-7560
Subject: RE: My response to a question asked of Ailsa at the hearing by Ma Rea got me thinking

From: Ted Howard [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 2 December 2021 12:43 PM
To: EastCoast
Subject: My response to a question asked of Ailsa at the hearing by Ma Rea got me thinking

Kia Ora Ma-rea and team,

Your question to Ailsa at the hearing about the effect of tracks on chicks got me thinking about the different sorts of scenarios likely.

I gave an answer relevant to Kaikoura from my experience here - where I mostly observe quadbike tracks high on the beach, and the beach at that level is very "dimpled" anyway, so there we had not noted any preference by chicks for the quadbike tracks - when threatened or startled they would go to the nearest hole and freeze.

But the situation you are considering has a deep area of intertidal sand, which tends to be very smooth after each tidal flush, and any depression in that is likely to be strongly favoured by chicks as a point of contrast they can effectively hide in. This idea is entirely conjecture, as I have not actually observed and tested it, but I do definitely see in chicks a preference to hide in the bottom of depressions rather than on ridges; so it would make sense that they would prefer to go into tracks where those tracks were the only depressions available, and thus asking quad bikes to travel in the same tracks in the intertidal could effectively be setting a chick trap along the entire beach (if we ask the riders to come back in the same track that they went down in, and the beach is generally smooth). Note this is very different from asking vehicles to keep to one set of tracks well above normal high tide level where-ever possible, where the sand has many other sorts of depressions in it.

Reality is never as simple as we would like it to be!

Arohanui

Ted

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